



Dancing dolls kick off festival in Iran

IRAN (AFP) — A group of dancers performed a traditional dance in a courtyard in Tehran. The dancers, dressed in traditional Iranian clothing, were performing a dance known as 'Dance of the Dolls'. The dance is a traditional part of Iranian culture and is often performed during festivals and celebrations.

Musical, political and religious Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — A Chinese orchestra and a group of dancers performed at a concert in Hong Kong. The concert was part of a series of performances celebrating the 10th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong to China. The orchestra played a variety of traditional Chinese instruments, and the dancers performed a traditional Chinese dance.

TRASHOUBA — A group of people were seen in a trashy area. The area appears to be a dump or a place where waste is discarded. The people are standing near a pile of trash, and the overall scene is one of poverty and neglect.

in Miami, filming begins on Versace murder movie

RAMADAN — A group of people were seen in a mosque. The mosque is a place of worship for Muslims, and the people are gathered there for a religious ceremony. The mosque is a large building with a dome and minarets, and the people are dressed in traditional Islamic clothing.

ouglas, from Israeli star at an Sebastian festival

IN SEBASTIAN — A group of people were seen in a festival. The festival is a celebration of the city's heritage and culture, and the people are gathered there to enjoy the music, dance, and food. The festival is a popular event in the city, and it attracts a large number of visitors.

Czech president to visit Kingdom Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vaclav Havel and the first lady of the Czech Republic will be arriving in Amman Saturday at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor. Mr. Havel will be accompanied by an official delegation of ministers and business representatives that will hold talks with their Jordanian counterparts. The chamber of industry and commerce will be hosting the Czech trade delegation of 13 corporations headed by the Czech minister of trade and transport on Sunday.



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King bids Zeroual farewell after 'successful visit by all standards'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday pledged Jordan's backing for the Algerian people and leadership in the face of the current circumstances facing their country, stressing that the Algerian people have the right to live in peace.

Speaking to reporters upon bidding farewell to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual at the end of his three-day visit to Jordan, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand against acts of terrorism and against the atrocities committed against the Algerian people.

Describing the Algerian president's visit as extremely successful by all standards, King Hussein said that the two countries hold identical views adding that the talks in the past two days were characterised with frankness and held in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Referring to the accords concluded between the two countries during Mr. Zeroual's visit, the King said that the two countries are determined to execute these agreements and to explore other scopes of bilateral cooperation.



His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual confer Wednesday before the departure of the president after a three-day visit to the Kingdom (Petra photo)

In reply to a question about Jordan's aid to Algeria to deal with the present difficulties, the King said that "Jordan's stand is quite clear — we support the Algerian people and leadership and their right to live in tranquillity and peace on their national soil."

In answer to a question about ending inter-Arab differences, the King said that "relations with the Arab sister states are now back on track and we will do everything in our power to achieve further progress in this regard through bilateral contacts and pave the way for a comprehensive Arab meeting."

The King saluted the Algerian people wishing them stability, security and continued progress.

King Hussein had earlier in the day called on the Algerian president and resumed discussions with him about issues of common concern including bilateral cooperation and regional issues.

Seeing off the Algerian president at the airport were members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Cabinet ministers, senior officials and high-ranking army officers.

Before Mr. Zeroual's departure, the Algerian minister of transport, Ahmad Bou Leil, held a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Bassam Saket to discuss the implementation of Jordanian-Algerian agreements on land and maritime transport which were signed earlier this year in Algeria.

The Algerian minister of higher education, Ammar Tow, along with his Jordanian counterpart Munther Masri called at Al Bayt University in Mafrq and met University Vice President for Educational Affairs Omar Shdeifat for discussion on bilateral cooperation in higher education and scientific research.



KING RECEIVES SAUDI MINISTER OF INFORMATION: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives at the Royal Court Saudi Minister of Information Fouad Abdul Salam Farisi. Mr. Farisi conveyed to King Hussein greetings of Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz. Attending the meetings were Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi (Petra photo)

Crown Prince back home after Umra, talks with Saudi officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home after a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. Prince Hassan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, first deputy prime minister, on the latest developments in the region as well as bilateral ties.

The two sides also discussed the peace process and called for a comprehensive peace in the region. The Crown Prince was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Rashed and senior officials.

At the end of his visit, the Crown Prince and the accompanying delegation performed the Umra (the lesser pilgrimage in Islam). Foreign Minister Fawaz Tarawneh stressed the importance of Jordanian-Saudi talks which took place Tuesday between Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah.

In a statement to Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, Dr.

Tarawneh said Prince Hassan's talks with Saudi officials "are important since they come at a stage when the region faces sensitive and difficult conditions."

He added that during the talks, the two sides assessed the status quo in the Middle East as well as the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit.

"Jordanian and Saudi positions on the peace process and the outcome of Ms. Albright's visit to the region were identical."

PNA, settlers reject Netanyahu's compromise solution over east Jerusalem settlers problem

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat warned Wednesday of a "very negative reaction" if Israel did not quickly obtain the removal of Jewish settlers occupying a house in an Arab quarter of Arab east Jerusalem.

Several hundred Palestinians clashed briefly with police when they tried to march on the house in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood, but the protesters were quickly dispersed.

"This is a clear breach of what has been agreed upon," Mr. Arafat said of the move by three settler families into the house in the Ras Al Amoud district.

"We hope that this will be solved very quickly, otherwise there will be a very negative reaction," he told reporters at his Gaza City headquarters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has a legal option to evict Jewish settlers on security grounds from two Palestinian homes they took over in Arab east Jerusalem, lawyers said Wednesday.

But such a move could draw fire from right-wing and religious parties in his fragile coalition.

Settlers who took over the two buildings in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood under cover of night on Sunday said the properties were bought by U.S. Jewish millionaire Irving Moskowitz.

A settler spokeswoman said the Miami-based magnate asked Israel's high court of justice Wednesday to issue a temporary order banning Mr. Netanyahu from evicting the settlers from property which he said he had legally bought and rented to them.

Palestinians dispute the ownership claim and have demanded the settlers be thrown out.

"What Mr. Netanyahu can do legally to remove the settlers is a tough question," said an Israeli constitutional



A Palestinian is dragged away by Israeli riot police from outside the new Jewish settlement in the Arab east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud Wednesday (Reuters photo)

lawyer who asked not to be identified.

"He could use a recommendation by former Attorney General Yosef Harish, who said that in cases in which there is a high probability of danger to public security the government could interfere with property rights," the attorney said.

"This question has never been examined and if it is applied it will probably be challenged," he told Reuters.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has already gone on record as saying there is no immediate security risk because the national police force he oversees could maintain order at the settlement site.

The lawyer said the Israeli government could expropriate the property "for public use" under British mandatory law, which is still valid in Israel, and pay compensation to the owners. "It's a lengthy process though," he said.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said the government proposed a compromise whereby the Jewish families would evacuate the buildings but leave behind a token presence. The idea was immediately rejected by settlers and Palestinians.

Under the deal, the 11 settlers would move out and be replaced by 10 Jewish semi-nomadic students who would

renovate the two buildings in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood in Arab east Jerusalem, the sector claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

However, the settlers rejected the emerging deal and Palestinians branded it a "deception."

"There is no compromise," settler spokeswoman Hagit Harel told reporters.

The speaker of the Palestinian parliament, Ahmad Qouria, said the Palestinians would not accept any deal that left settlers in the two buildings. If the settlers stay, Mr. Qouria said, "this will cause a very dangerous situation."

In a sign that the Palestinians were abandoning their initial restraint, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Jerusalem announced that a protest in Ras Al Amoud was planned for Wednesday afternoon.

"The question is not whether he has the legal power to remove the settlers but whether he has the political will," said Palestinian attorney Jonathan Kuttab.

"In the name of security Israel does everything it wants, it violates international law, kidnaps people and invades countries," Mr. Kuttab said.

"He can remove them tomorrow, expropriate the land and build a police station. In the name of security,



Palestinian children on their way home from school Wednesday pass through a line of Israeli riot police who stand at the new Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem (Reuters photo)

Jewish settlers throw stones, try to close Palestinian road

HEBRON (AFP) — Jewish settlers tried again to stop Palestinian workers carrying out U.S. sponsored renovations on a road outside their enclave in the West Bank town of Hebron on Wednesday, witnesses said.

Around 50 settlers, including women and children, stood in front of a bulldozer working on Shuhada street, while others threw stones and eggs at the Palestinian workers and journalists.

Israeli soldiers dispersed the crowd and detained one settler for throwing stones, but they later released him, witnesses said. No injuries were reported.

Work continued afterwards under a heavy guard of Israeli border police.

On Monday settlers blocked Shuhada street with 10 cars which Israeli police then towed away.

Settlers have frequently thrown stones and, on at least one occasion, shot at workers in a bid to stop renovation of Shuhada street, which runs past one of their enclaves.

The U.S. has contributed \$1 million for the Palestinian municipality in Hebron to enlarge the street and improve its sewage and lighting, in order to reopen it to Palestinian vehicles. Israel closed the street, which connects central Hebron to the rest of the city.

Israeli courts allow torture. If you can torture someone half to death, you can prevent someone from entering a house. This is all manoeuvring and the games he likes to play," Mr. Kuttab said.

Eytan Geva, one of Mr. Moskowitz's lawyers in Israel, said his client bought land at Ras Al Amoud in 1991 from Jewish religious institutions which he contended had owned it since 1880.

But Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian National Authority's representative in Jerusalem, said the land

belonged to a Palestinian family.

"We have known for the past 70 years that this land has been under the control of the Al Ghoul family and it was never under the control of any Jew or Israeli," Mr. Hussein said at a sit-in at the site on Tuesday night.

"Even if it were true [that Moskowitz owns land] and they think that it is time for everyone to get the land registered in his name, then we should take our land in west Jerusalem. We own 70 per cent of the land there," Mr. Hussein said.

Tarawneh to deliver Kingdom's address at 52nd U.N. General Assembly session

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fawaz Tarawneh will travel to New York on Monday to attend the U.N. General Assembly's 52nd session and meet with a number of foreign ministers to outline Jordan's stand regarding the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Tarawneh said in a statement that he will deliver Jordan's address to the General Assembly dealing with the various problems facing the world in general and the Middle East region in particular noting that the address will cover the Palestine refugees question.

He said that Jordan's address aims to draw the world community's attention to the recurrent deficit in the annual budgets of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and demand that the world community shoulder its responsibility towards this issue.

In a statement published by the Middle East newspaper Wednesday, Dr. Tarawneh described a recent trip to the

Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as positive because it gave the secretary an opportunity to study the Palestinian situation and the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli closure of the self-rule areas and the Israeli government's current measures.

He said the trip was useful as it also allowed the U.S. secretary to learn about the efforts exerted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for reviving the peace process.

Dr. Tarawneh expressed belief that the U.S. administration will better understand the PNA's position in light of a report Ms. Albright will submit to President Clinton.

Referring to Ms. Albright's visit to Amman, Dr. Tarawneh said Jordan told the U.S. secretary that its stand was in conformity with the communiqué issued in Cairo recently following a summit meeting that grouped His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser

Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, noting that the three countries demanded the implementation of the Oslo accords.

"We told Ms. Albright that the collective punishment which Israel applies against the Palestinians was against all laws stressing that the security issue is of importance but that it is only a part of a just and comprehensive peace," said Dr. Tarawneh.

Asked about the problem which bars the implementation of the Jordanian agreements, he said "we cannot say there are problems over the non-implementation of the agreements but rather we face some questions connected with the economic and trade agreements which Israel has so far failed to implement. But the general situation and the general psychological and political atmosphere are not convenient for speeding up the implementation of the trade agreement between the two countries."

Palestinians accuse Israel of killing prisoner

AJIA, West Bank (AFP) — The father of a Palestinian detainee who Israel said committed suicide in his cell accused Israeli authorities on Wednesday of killing his son in prison.

"The army murdered my son. I pray to God to get revenge on them," Hassan Maaleh, 70, told Agence France Presse from his village of Ajia in the northern West Bank.

The army said Tuesday that Mr. Maaleh's son Marwan, who had been arrested in the wake of a July 30 Jerusalem bombing, had hung himself in his cell in Megiddo prison in north Israel.

A spokesman for the Israeli internal security ministry said Wednesday they had no further details on the case, but noted that under Israeli law an autopsy and an investigation into the death was required.

Marwan had three children

Israel arrests 17 suspects near Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Israeli troops arrested 17 Palestinians suspected of belonging to Islamist groups in an overnight sweep on a village outside Bethlehem on Wednesday, witnesses said. The troops raided several houses in Teqoua village southeast of Bethlehem and rounded up 17 youths suspected of belonging to Hamas or Islamic Jihad, residents of the village said.

and his wife was pregnant with a fourth, Mr. Maaleh said. "He didn't belong to any political organisation, not the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) or anything," he said.

Marwan, who worked as a construction worker in Israel, was arrested amid sweeps a few days after the July bombing for which Hamas' military wing, the Izzeddine Al Qassam brigade claimed responsibility.

He was placed in administrative detention, in which Israel detains for indefinite periods suspects it considers a security threat but against whom it does not hold enough evidence to put on trial.

"This is a perfect example of the dangers of administrative detention, which Israel uses not as a preventative measure, but as a way to punish," said Bassam Eid, head of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.

Israel currently holds some 3,000 Palestinians in its prisons. Before the latest bomb attacks, at least 300 of them were in administrative detention, some for several years.

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian authorities Wednesday confiscated the Cairo edition of the London-based Arab daily Al Hayat over a report on Halaib, a disputed area claimed by both Egypt and Sudan. Al Hayat said.

"They confiscated the newspaper because of a news item we ran on the front page on Halaib," a spokeswoman for Al Hayat's Editor-in-Chief Jihad Khazen said.

"The paper was stopped before it was printed," the spokeswoman told Agence France Presse from London.

Al Hayat's Cairo director, Wahid Abdul Majid, said the censorship board stopped publication of Wednesday's edition "because it was opposed to a report on Halaib for national security reasons."

He said the censors felt that the article sent by their correspondent in Khartoum about a visit to Halaib by Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir was "slightly biased."

A copy of the article faxed from Al Hayat in London quoted political sources in Khartoum as saying that Gen. Bashir visited the Halaib border region as part of a "routine tour to parts of Sudan."

"This visit confirms Bashir's attachment to its sovereignty over its territories... and its attachment to self-restraint in the face of Egyptian harassment aimed at emptying Halaib of the Sudanese presence," they said.

"Bashir's visit to Halaib shows Sudan's determination to hold on to it although only 300 Sudanese troops are sta-

tioned there compared to an entire Egyptian unit and naval forces stationed in the region," they added.

The decades-long dispute between Egypt and Sudan flared up in 1992 with the two neighbouring countries claiming control over the 17,000-square-kilometre triangle skirting the Red Sea.

Egypt argues that its border with Sudan runs along the 22nd Parallel extending to the Red Sea, in line with an 1899 agreement between London and Cairo at the time of the Anglo-Egyptian condominium over Sudan.

But Khartoum maintains that the border runs northward in line with a 1902 decision which took into account the presence in the triangle of Sudanese ethnic groups.

Three Sudanese soldiers were killed in clashes

between Egyptian and Sudanese forces in the Halaib area in June 1995.

Wednesday's seizure of Al Hayat in Egypt was the second of its kind in three years.

"One of our editions was also confiscated three years ago because of an article about [Islamist] violence," Mr. Majid said, adding that under Egyptian law censors go through articles before newspapers go to press.

Al Hayat is published simultaneously in London and several Arab capitals, including Cairo where it prints 5,000 copies daily.

The head of the press censorship board, Lutfi Abdul Qader, confirmed the confiscation order but said he was unable to provide any reason for the seizure.

"It was banned and that's all," Mr. Abdul Qader said.



Palestinian women and schoolgirls on Wednesday pass by a bus full of supporters for the Jewish settlers who occupied two houses in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood of Arab east Jerusalem. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned of a 'very negative reaction' if Israel did not quickly obtain the removal of Jewish settlers occupying two houses they purchased in the Arab neighbourhood (AFP photo)

MASEER, Egypt (AP) — Villagers used their bare hands to tear apart the wooden sides of a truck Tuesday as they pulled injured children from beneath the wreckage of a truck that overturned in a canal, killing 29 youth.

At least 54 children and teenagers were injured when the truck, which was bringing the youth to work in government-owned cotton fields, skidded off a narrow, unpaved road and plunged into a 2-metre-deep canal in Maseer village in Kafr Al Sheikh, 120 kilometres north of Cairo.

The victims were between 12 and 17 years old, police and doctors in Kafr Al Sheikh said. It is not unusual for children and teenagers to work in farm fields in Egypt. Children working in the fields earn about \$1.25 a day, enough to support themselves and help their impoverished families.

Villagers said they heard the children crying out for help as the truck fell into the canal.

"The people were screaming and trapped inside the back of the truck," said Hamadah Ibrahim Sabsab, a village guard. "We started with our bare hands pulling off the wood and pulling the children out."

Another village guard, Shehata Al Saudi, said: "We jumped into the canal and pulled from the side and from the top... and lift-

ed the workers out alive and dead."

Ahmad Hammoud, an ambulance worker, said many of the survivors had broken bones and their eyes and mouths were covered with mud.

Pink, green and blue dresses and long beige robes that are traditionally worn by village men and youth were seen floating down the canal hours after the accident.

The truck was travelling along a narrow, side road in Maseer when the driver lost control as he passed a section of the road that had been partially washed out by water from the canal, Mr. Hammoud said.

The truck tumbled into the canal pinning scores of children and teenagers beneath the wreckage.

Villagers jumped into the canal to try and save the children and were able to pull several from the truck.

Eleven boys and 18 girls drowned, said Abbas Sayed, head of the Kafr Al Sheikh hospital where the children were taken.

In Sul Hagar, 30 kilometres southeast of Maseer, hundreds of villagers sat quietly on the road leading to the village cemetery. Twenty-three of the dead were from that village.

Ambulances brought the bodies alone or in pairs to graves at half-hour intervals.

As the ambulances approach the village, women in black veils

wailed, and men shouted "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is great."

Mohammad Zaghلول stood among the tombstones of the cemetery weeping as an ambulance carrying his 13-year-old daughter Ahlam arrived. Ahlam would have started the 8th grade Saturday.

Mr. Zaghلول could not even look up as villagers carried Ahlam's body to her grave.

Ahlam's uncle, Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al Bishy, demanded that the government compensate the families.

"Their families are very poor and the kids work here and there because their families are needy," he said.

Wednesday's editions of the Al Akhbar and Al Jumhuriyya newspapers quoted Prime Minister Kamal Jazoury as saying that the families of the dead would receive \$900 while those of the wounded would receive \$150.

The truck that overturned was owned by Egypt's agriculture ministry, the interior ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Sayed said that 56 children were injured, two of them suffering from brain haemorrhages.

Police earlier said 54 children were injured.

All of the injured children, except the two suffering from brain injuries, have been released from the hospital, Mr. Sayed said.

Syria seeks

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has cancelled all his appointments until Sunday because of a leg inflammation, his doctor, Sait Akin, announced Wednesday.

"President Rauf Denktaş must rest because of a vein inflammation in his left leg," the Turkish news agency Anadolu quoted Mr. Akin as saying.

"An examination Tuesday showed that the healing was not at a satisfactory level ... his appointments for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday have been cancelled," Mr. Akin said.

Mr. Denktaş heads the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which declared independence in 1983 and is recognised only by Ankara, which has 35,000 troops stationed there.

As problems brew in Jerusalem, Israeli premier readies Central European tour

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — As the Israeli-Palestinian crisis brews at home, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled Thursday to begin a three-nation tour to cement links with the Central European states of Austria, Hungary and Romania.

"This is a goodwill visit planned a long time ago," said Mr. Netanyahu's media advisor David Bar-Ilan.

"The trip should lead to strengthening cooperation, especially economic, with these three nations with whom we have friendly relations," he said.

Israeli press reports Tuesday said Mr. Netanyahu considered cancelling the tour as tensions flared here over the surprise occupation Sunday night by radical Jewish settlers of a home in the Arab east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud.

The reports said Mr. Netanyahu also feared new bombings by militants following two Jerusalem bombings in July and September 4.

Palestinians warned that unless the government evicted the settlers from Ras Al Amoud their presence could spark widespread rioting like that which followed the opening of a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Arab east Jerusalem.

The tunnel opening, almost exactly a year ago, sparked three days of rioting and armed clashes between Palestinian police

and Israeli soldiers which left 85 people dead. The fighting erupted Sept. 27 as Mr. Netanyahu was on a European tour.

The prime minister was struggling Tuesday to convince the settlers to leave Ras Al Amoud peacefully and his office announced no changes to Mr. Netanyahu's travel plans.

He was scheduled to fly Thursday to Romania for talks with Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea and other officials on economic and military cooperation as well as the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The talks are also expected to touch on the conditions of tens of thousands of Romanian labourers in Israel after questions of possible mistreatment arose.

Following the death of an elderly worker at a Tel Aviv construction site earlier this year.

In Budapest Friday to Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu will meet with President Arpaio, Goencz and Prime Minister Gyula Horn for talks again centred on economic links, officials said.

He is due to wind up the tour Monday and Tuesday in Austria, a rapidly budding trade partner for Israel.

Bilateral relations with Austria have improved markedly in recent years after tense ties with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky due to his government's support for the Palestinian cause in the 1970's and then under President Kurt Waldheim who had hidden his Nazi past.

Syria seeks cancellation or delay of Israel-Turkey-U.S. exercises

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria asked Turkey Wednesday to cancel or delay naval manoeuvres it plans to hold in November in the eastern Mediterranean with Israel and the U.S.

"The manoeuvres come at a critical time and harm the security of the region and neighbourly relations," the official Al Thawra newspaper said. "But there is still time to stop or delay them until the situation in the region is clarified."

The manoeuvres, which have already been postponed once, were at the centre of talks Tuesday in Alexandria, Egypt, between Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

"At the beginning the exercises were suspicious," Mr. Mubarak said at a joint news conference with Mr. Demirel. "But President Demirel reassured me that they will be limited to search and rescue."

"President Demirel told me that they are not aimed against any Arab country, and we thank him for that," Mr. Mubarak added.

Al Thawra said that "despite the Turkish justifications, the reality is something else because the military coordination and alliance with the Arabs enemy (Israel) doesn't necessarily signal good intentions." Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to meet Syrian President Hafez Assad in

Alexandria Thursday and the manoeuvres are expected to be discussed. The manoeuvres are also expected to be raised at an Arab League meeting Sept. 20.

Meanwhile, the Interfax News Agency in Moscow cited the Russian air force as saying that Russia will hold joint military exercises September 20-27 at a site in Russia with a Syrian air defence unit.

The manoeuvres will consist of firing missiles at aer-

al targets, Interfax said. Adding that the Syrians, who use Russian S-200 anti-aircraft missiles, hope the manoeuvres will be held annually.

Another Syrian government newspaper, Tishrin, accused the Israeli government meanwhile of "laying the groundwork" for a group of Jewish settlers to move into a house in historically Arab east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud over the weekend.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10Ovide and the Gang
14:30The New Fred and Bamsey;
15:00 America's Funniest People
15:30He Shoots He Scores
16:30Shingalaro
17:00French Programmes
19:00News in French
19:15French Programmes
19:30News Headlines
19:35Trivial Pursuit
20:00Parenthood
20:30 Lois and Clark — Super-
man
21:10Kung Fu
22:00News in English
22:30Feature Film
23:15Step By Step
23:59End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:58Fajr
06:16(Sunrise) Duha
12:30Dhuhr
16:00‘Asr
18:43Maghreb
20:01‘Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweithi, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terza Sancta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES

622366	Deserts.....	14/33
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.	Jordan Valley	22/35
Armenian Catholic Church		
Tel. 771331.		
Armenian Orthodox Church	Yesterday's high temperature	
Tel. 775261.	Amman 30, Aqaba 34 Humid-	
St. Ephraim Church Tel.	ity readings: Amman 45 per	
771751.	cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.	
Amman International Church		
Tel. 5516245		
Evangelical Lutheran Church		
Tel. 824328.		
German-speaking Evangelical		
Congregation Tel. 688404		
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.		
654932.		
Church of Nazarene Tel.		
675691.		
The Evangelical Local Church		
in Amman Tel. 811295		
English-speaking		
Latin Catholic Parish Tel.		
614190.		

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with winds north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	15/31
Aqaba	23/36

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansoor	750197
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfik	788285
Dr. Youssef Naser	751144
Dr. Afif Shukri	898863
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeiseni pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr	276802
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafiq Atallah	994424
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	

DAILY C

	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Flood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603900
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

GUIDE AN

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre813813/32
Khaldi Maternity,644281/6
Akileh Maternity,642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity
642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Sumassani 607071
Sumassani Hospital609131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital
667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661263/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen
777101/3
Al-Bashir,775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital
602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart
and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital
(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
(09)990990
IRRIBD:
Princess Basma Hospital
02.275555

AD CALE

Greek	Catholic	Hospital
(02)272375		
Ibn Al Nafes	Hospital	
(02)347100		
AQABA:		
Princess	Haya	Hospital
(03)314111		

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or (08)53250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:05	.....Sanaa (RJ)
09:45	.....New Delhi
10:05	.....Bombay (RJ)
10:40	.....Dahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20	.....Bahrain (RJ)
10:25	.....Beirut (RJ)
11:40	.....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:40	.....Colombo (RJ)
15:25	.....Kuwait (RJ)
15:55	.....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30	.....London (RJ)
17:30	.....Jeddah (add) (RJ)
18:55	.....Doha (RJ)

INBAR

19:10	Athens (RJ)
19:30	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:45	Moscow (RJ)
01:35	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
Other Flights	
13:00	Riyadh (SV)
13:55	Doha (GF)
14:30	Al 'Arish (PF)
14:40	Sharigah (AH)
16:00	Rome (AZ)
19:50	Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00	Cairo (MS)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
01:20	Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
05:40	London (BA)
09:00	Dubai (EK)
Royal Wings (RW)	
(For Thursday and Friday)	
08:45	Aqaba (RW)
10:05	Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50	Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:30	Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30	Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20	Aqaba (RW)
23:50	Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
09:10	Kuwait (RJ)
11:30	Moscow (RJ)
12:10	Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
13:00	Doha (RJ)
13:20	Athens (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
17:10	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
19:00	Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
21:20	Laraca (RJ)
21:25	Jeddah (RJ)
22:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:15	Cairo (RJ)
23:59	Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
Other Flights	
04:00	Athens (OA)
06:15	Istanbul (TK)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
08:50	Amsterdam (GA)
09:10	London (BA)
14:30	Riyadh (SV)
14:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30	Annsaba, Algeria (AB)
15:30	Al 'Arish (add) (PF)
17:00	Rome (AZ)
21:10	Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00	Cairo (MS)
02:30	Amsterdam (KL)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
10:00	Dubai (EK)
10:25	London (BA)
Royal Wings	
(For Thursday and Friday)	
07:45	Amman (Marka Aljaz) (RW)
09:15	Amman (GA) (RW)
10:30	Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45	Amman (Marka Aljaz) (RW)
18:55	Tel Aviv (LY)
21:30	Amman (QAIA) (RW)

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Queen Noor meets with president of youth foundation, Finnish Red Cross

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met Wednesday with Vice President of the International Youth Foundation (IYF) Par Stenback at the Jubilee School to discuss a plan to form a coalition for supporting youth projects in Jordan, a press release announced Wednesday.

Mr. Stenback, who is vice president of the Europe and the Middle East Office, said IYF and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development have sponsored studies on promoting children and youth development in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt. He added that the IYF will work in Jordan in cooperation with the National Task Force for Children, which is chaired by the Queen, the announcement continued.

IYF was established in 1990 after two years of consultation with leaders in business, philanthropy, education, government, and social services in more than 30 countries. IYF enlists a wide array of international organisations and leaders in its efforts to identify, fund, and expand pioneering projects for youth, the press release read.

In his capacity as President of the Finnish Red Cross, Mr. Stenback discussed with Queen Noor, who with His Majesty King Hussein is an honorary president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and is also the president of the United World Colleges (UWC), the progress of expanding cooperation between the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the UWC. The UWC college in Norway has a pioneering partnership with the International Red Cross/Red Crescent, which has enabled most of its students to be selected from refugee camps, developing countries, and Central and



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday meets with the three Jubilee School students whose papers won honourable mention in an international science competition (Petra photo)

Queen Noor meets with Jubilee School international competition winners

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday met with Alia Alawneh, Maria Shihadeh, and Rawan Abu Zeitoun, the three Jubilee School students whose papers on "The Magnificent Aurora," "The Shroedinger Wave Equation," and "The Uncertainty Relations," respectively, won "honourable mentions" at the fifth international competition

"First Step to Nobel Prize in Physics," held by the Polish Academy of Sciences, according to a press release Wednesday.

The competition, which is open to all secondary school students under the age of 20, aims to provide young aspiring scientists "with an opportunity to compare their achievements with those of their colleagues from other countries," the statement

continued. Fifty-seven countries participated in this year's competition, with a total of 304 papers. Jordan, which was represented by the Jubilee School students, was the only Arab country to win, the statement added.

Later Queen Noor chaired a meeting of the Jubilee School Steering Committee, the press release continued.

Eastern Europe, the statement continued. The United World Colleges (UWC) is an equal opportunity, international, secondary education programme designed to foster cross-cultural understanding and global peace. Founded in 1962, it consists of nine colleges situated in

Wales, Canada, Singapore, the U.S., Swaziland, Italy, Venezuela, Hong Kong, and Norway, and will open a new college next November in India. The UWC students are chosen on merit regardless of race, creed, colour, background, or financial ability, and the majority are awarded schol-

arships, the statement added.

President of the Jordan Red Crescent and Vice President of the International Foundation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Muhammad Hadid attended the meeting with the Queen, the statement concluded.

Pro-government party to release ticket, platform 'next week' — statement

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's pro-government political party, possibly the only large institutionalised group that will participate in the Nov. 4 elections, is to announce its ticket and political platform "at the beginning of next week" according to a National Constitutional Party (NCP) announcement Wednesday.

An executive committee meeting held Tuesday morning did not produce the final documents, but the NCP may publish a candidate list and programme as early as Saturday, NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali said.

Though Mr. Majali would not give the number of candidates his party will field in the Kingdom's 21 electoral districts, Arabic press reports have suggested that the NCP could field up to 60 candidates for the 80-seat Lower House.

Meanwhile, some NCP leaders, including Mr. Majali, have already won the support of their tribes and have been nominated by their family councils to run in the upcoming elections.

As for its platform, the NCP is expected to focus on its cornerstones of national unity and economic reforms.

According to Anis Muasher, NCP deputy sec-

retary general for economic and financial affairs, the party's plan to "revitalize" Jordan's economy would be based on encouraging the key sectors of trade and tourism, as well as fighting unemployment, attracting the local labour force to those jobs traditionally reserved for guest workers, and replacing custom duties with value added taxes (VAT).

Formed from the merger of one large (Al Ahd) and eight smaller centrist parties, the NCP is expected to benefit from the withdrawal from the electoral race of the major opposition forces, including the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action

Front (IAF), smaller leftist and pan-Arab parties, and the professional associations, as well as prominent independent opposition leaders.

These groups announced in July their decision to boycott the elections in protest against the one-person, one-vote system, which they deem as encouraging tribalism at the expense of political parties' representation in Parliament, the normalisation of ties with Israel, and controversial amendments introduced in mid-May to the Press and Publication Law, as well as what they described as "a general limitation of public freedoms."

Conference to promote interaction between health, social science professionals opens today

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In order to promote the interaction of professionals in the social sciences and health spheres, the Family Health Group (FHG)

has organised the Second Conference on the Arab Forum for Social Sciences and Health starting today.

FHG Director Ra'eda Qutob told the Jordan Times that the group found it important to encourage con-

tact and integration of people working in these two fields, since they often work in isolation.

The goal of the conference, Dr. Qutob said, is to foster means of tackling health issues in a comprehensive manner, since "people usually think of a health problem in terms of its physical impact, and not its social, political, economic, and legislative aspects."

It was crucial to understand the environment in which the health problem arises, particularly the economic and political systems, according to the director.

"Only then can we say we have understood the health problem and can look for ways of preventing or curing the illness," she explained.

This year, the conference follows the theme of health and development.

"When the physical well-being of the individual is not as it should be, then this is reflected in economic and

social terms, and vice versa," she said.

During this three-day conference, 48 papers from nine Arab countries will be presented on various themes, including women and children, adolescence, health policies, and the homeless.

Some specific topics include violence against women in a rural Egyptian community, the attitude of Lebanese doctors in disclosing cancer diagnosis to their patients, child abuse, and the phenomenon of adolescent suicide.

Dr. Qutob said she hoped that this conference will generate a pressure group to lobby for needed amendments or changes in the social science and health areas.

The conference has the goal of setting the internal by-laws of the Arab forum and to elect the secretary general, the executive committee, and the venue for the forum, she concluded.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia conclude memorandum on cooperation in media, information fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Saudi Arabia Wednesday concluded a memorandum of understanding paving the way for bilateral cooperation in media and information fields.

The memorandum provides for the promotion of bilateral ties in information and media and the conclusion of agreements on cooperation between the two countries' national news agencies, radio and television stations, and press and publications departments.

The memorandum, which was signed by Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Fuad Abdul Salam Farisi, calls for the exchange of radio and television materials, expertise in information fields, and personnel training.

It also allows for the exchange of documentaries and publications, and consultation on legislation connected with press and information.

Dr. Farisi, who is visiting Jordan at the invitation of Dr. Mutawi, said his delegation came to Jordan with the intention of launching cooperation in the information fields to serve the Saudi and Jordanian people.

Earlier, Dr. Mutawi opened the Islamic Broadcasting Union Executive Council's



Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi and Saudi Minister Fuad Abdul Salam Farisi Wednesday sign a memorandum of understanding to develop ties in information fields (Petra photo)

twentieth meeting, which is being attended by delegates from 15 Arab and Islamic countries.

Dr. Mutawi underlined the need for Islamic broadcasting institutions to utilise modern technology in conveying Islam's true message to the world.

Noting that foreign media and Western news agencies have linked violence and acts

of terrorism with Islam by using such terms as islamophobia and Islamic terrorism, the minister said radio and broadcasting stations in the Arab and Islamic World have a duty to remove this distorted image.

He said Prince Hassan has been spearheading efforts worldwide to present the true image of Islam through interfaith dialogues and various

forums.

Islam continually fights all forms of terrorism, which is not connected to a particular faith or sect and occurs in all parts of the world, he added.

Dr. Farisi, who is representing Saudi Arabia at the two-day meeting, also addressed the session, along with Ihsan Ramzi, director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

Majali praises Jordanian-British ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday voiced Jordan's appreciation of the U.K.'s stand and its support for the Kingdom on the Middle East peace process, and expressed Jordan's satisfaction with the strong Jordanian-British relations in economic, trade, and tourist fields.

At a meeting with a delegation representing the British Labour Party, Dr. Majali outlined Jordan's position on the peace process and its pivotal role in urging the world community to help end the present stalemate and ensure the continuation of the negotiations.

He reviewed the government's plans to expand the

role of the private sector to achieve a strong national economy, policy of privatising public institutions, and means of encouraging foreign investments in the country.

He called on the delegation to encourage British investors to consider Jordan, pointing out that a number of projects have been implemented through British investment.

Both parties reviewed the general situation in the region and the obstacles facing the peace negotiations.

Ernie Ross, the head of the visiting delegation, said the British government and the British Labour Party were interested in Jordan's endeav-

ours and views concerning regional and international issues, particularly the peace process.

He called for further aid to Jordan to help the national economy deal with the challenges of the future.

Mr. Ross lauded the British-Jordanian relations and voiced his party's readiness to back Jordan's efforts in the peace process.

The delegation's visit was arranged in coordination with the Arab Ambassadors Council in the U.K.

Dr. Majali also Wednesday met with Under-Secretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry Onur Oymen, who arrived in Amman Tuesday, and reviewed Turkish-Jordanian

relations, primarily in economic and trade fields, as well as water issues and the present Middle East situation.

Underlining the strong bilateral ties, Dr. Majali paid tribute to Turkey's role in many regional and international arenas and called for further development of relations.

Mr. Oymen, who left Amman Wednesday, said Turkey regards Jordan as a sister country that is playing a pivotal role in the peace process.

Both meetings were attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani.

Women's conference ends with adoption of demands for parliamentary elections

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff reporter

AMMAN — Approximately 120 grass-roots women activists Tuesday voted for the ten most important demands out of 26 listings for the Parliamentary election period covering 1997-2001 at the conclusion of the two-day Convention on Jordanian Women's Demands for the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections.

These demands include: amending the Civil Status Law (63.3%), amending the Health Insurance Law (62 %), issuing a child protection law (57 %), amending the nationality law (57 %), issuing a law protecting women from domestic abuse (51.9 %), establishing a quota for women in Parliament (50.6 %), developing schools' curricula (48.1 %), modifying the election law (46.8 %), enabling women to a

passport without the approval of a male guardian (43 %), and achieving equality at the professional level (41.8 %).

The last item on the agenda, number 26, concerning the cancellation of the law that reduces the penalty for crimes of honour, received only 17.7 per cent.

The 26 demands on the women's agenda were the culmination of four separate agendas focusing on the political, economic, social, educational, health, and environmental demands of women living in the Aqaba, Irbid, Mafrq, and Zarqa governorates.

Director of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development Ellen Khouri told the gathering that her institute, along with the two other organisers, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the General Federation of Jordanian Women, will

support the agenda and try to fulfil women's demands.

Earlier in the day, Jordan Times editor Ramzi Khouri presented a paper on building lobbies and pressure groups, in which he stressed the importance of powerful lobbying that "strategically works for the cause of women in the long-run."

"Lobbying should be comprised, backed, and supported by women's organisations that exist, and at the same time women should confront the candidates with their concerns and agendas," Mr. Khouri told the gathering.

Mr. Khouri also suggested that women activists ensure that candidates will adopt and be committed to their concerns, "and once these candidates win, the lobbying groups should follow up on their performances and commitments to the women's cause."

Khadijeh Habbashneh, Abu Ali of the Women's Studies Centre echoed Mr. Khouri's suggestion and added that in order to accomplish these goals, "we should form follow-up committees for the women's agenda to work as pressure groups within the governorates."

Further, Ms. Abu Ali asserted that these committees will meet, set priorities for the women in the governorates, and contact decision-makers to explain their demands.

President of the Arab Women Organisation Emily Nafa and former Minister of Justice Hisham Tel presented two papers tackling the penal code and laws that discriminate against women, stating that "both women's organisation and activists have an important responsibility to tackle this discrimination on the local level."

BIG SALE

A special collection of
OLD RUGS & KILIMS

The Heritage House is exhibiting 96 pieces of old rugs and kilims representing original flatweaving work of various bedouin tribes, Kurdish communities in Turkey and the Arab World. Twenty-one additional pieces come from Nomad Belushi, Persian and Afghani origins.

JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL
FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY
19.9.97-20.9.97-21.9.97
9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Zum Tag der Deutschen Einheit
lädt die Deutsche Botschaft alle
in Jordanien
lebende deutsche Staatsangehörige zu
einem Empfang ein

Samstag, 04. Oktober 1997,
18:30-20:30 Uhr,
im Hotel Inter-Continental, Amman

Zum Einlaß berechtigte
Einladungskarten können
vorab bei der Botschaft abgeholt werden

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

* Concert entitled "A Night of Fayrouz Songs" by singer Serene Alloush at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

* "Cro'nica del Alba" (ep. III) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabbal Amman, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "Boys on the Side" at the American Centre, Amman, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Syrian artist Dr. Fawzi Moudarres at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 5537598).

* Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cer

vantes.

Jabbal Amman until Sept. 23.

* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabbal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).

* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).

* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radiocativité" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

5 Iranian technicians killed by gunmen in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Gunmen shot dead five Iranian Air Force technicians and wounded a sixth in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi Wednesday, security sources said.

The wounded man had been taken to hospital and was only slightly hurt, the sources said.

They said the Iranians had been on their way from the Kamra Aeronautical Complex, 70 kilometres west of Rawalpindi, to the army's Qasim Air Base in the city in a passenger van.

The Iranians were part of a 21-man group on a training course sponsored by the Defence Ministry and based at a military facility in Wah,

about 30 kilometres west of Islamabad. They normally worked at the Kamra Complex, the sources said.

Police had earlier identified the Iranians as trainee pilots and said they had been in uniform when attacked at about seven a.m. by three men riding one motorcycle.

The unidentified assailants, who used Kalashnikov assault rifles in the attack, escaped on their motorcycle.

Police had earlier reported the incident as an armed robbery targeting a bank van carrying cash.

The motive for the attack on the Iranians was not immediately clear.

In February, Sunni Muslim gunmen attacked the Iranian Cultural Centre in the city of Multan, in the central province of Punjab, killing its Iranian director, Mohammad Ali Rahimi, and seven local staffers.

Police blamed that attack on the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group, an armed offshoot of the fiercely anti-Shiite Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) organisation.

In January, SSP supporters burned the Iranian Cultural Centre in Lahore, one day after a bomb blast there killed SSP leader Zia-Ur-Rahman Faruqi and 22 other people.

SSP followers blamed Shiite militants for the

bombing. SSP deputy leader Azam Tariq was among 55 wounded.

Shiite-majority Iran has in the past urged Pakistan to protect Shiites from attacks by what it calls terrorists.

Iran and Pakistan have extensive trade relations and are partners in the Economic Cooperation Organisation, but their relations have been strained by differences over Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government, under pressure to halt a wave of Sunni-Shiite sectarian violence, passed a stringent new anti-terrorism law in August, giving police new powers and setting up special fast-track courts.

Afghan Taleban gain Saudi backing, aid

KABUL (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has pledged to aid the hardline Afghan Taleban's quest for international acceptance and provide assistance to areas under their control, a top militia official said Wednesday.

During a visit this month to meet King Fahd, a top militia delegation solicited political and financial help from the Arab backers of the strict Muslim movement, the official said.

"They were all positive. King Fahd was too kind, and they have all promised us as much as they can give us," said an enthusiastic Sher Mohammad Stanekzai, the militia's deputy foreign minister.

He said the delegation, led by Taleban number-two Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, requested help in gaining the Afghan seat at the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Stanekzai said the nine-day visit including meetings with King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdel Aziz and Prince Sultan Ben Abdel Aziz, the minister of defence and civil aviation.

"They promised they will order their minister of foreign affairs to use authority in order that the OIC and U.N. seat will be given to us," he said.

The Afghan seat at the OIC remains vacant, whilst the U.N. seat remains held by the Kabul government ousted by the militia in September last year.

Only Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have officially recognised the Taleban, who control around two-thirds of Afghanistan including the capital Kabul.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are accused of being major backers of the militia, who in turn claim Russia, Iran, Tajikistan, France and India are backing their northern-based opponents.

"Nothing in particular has been signed from Saudi Arabia, but they promised us that they will do everything they can to help us," the deputy minister said.

He said humanitarian aid including clothing, medicine and food has been offered to help civilians in Taleban areas

survive the looming winter, and long term development aid had also been promised.

A delegation from the Saudi Arabian Islamic Bank was also set to visit Afghanistan, he said, to assess the possibility of repairing electricity supplies, roads and dams.

Mr. Stanekzai only mentioned a broad figure of \$100 to \$200 million of Saudi cash for the projects.

But Mr. Stanekzai maintained the aid was not aimed at eventually substituting the colossal amounts of Western cash that poured into Afghanistan, gripped by civil war for nearly 18 years.

"Those aid agencies already active are helping our people, but they can not fulfil our requirements one hundred per cent, so we require help from friendly countries like Saudi Arabia," Mr. Stanekzai asserted.

Relations between foreign aid groups and the militia have deteriorated over the past year, following tight restrictions on distributing assistance to women and the employment of female staff.

Meanwhile, The United Nations appealed Tuesday to Afghan factions in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sherif to allow the evacuation of U.N. and private relief workers there.

"Thirteen U.N. international staff members and a large number of NGO (non-governmental organisation) employees are stuck in Mazar," the chief of the U.N. mission to Afghanistan, Norbert Holl, said in a statement.

He said the relief workers were "unable to carry out vital humanitarian assistance work because their offices have been looted of equipment and supplies."

The German U.N. official said "many of these people have been seriously harassed over the past week and the U.N. is anxious to remove them from the city at the earliest opportunity."

Conditions in the city have deteriorated since the Taleban religious army, which controls most of the country, approached Mazar-e-Sherif before being driven back.

Opposition factions fought among themselves, U.N. officials said, with gunmen looting foreign aid agencies and diplomatic missions.

Senate confirms Shelton to head Joint Chiefs

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Tuesday unanimously confirmed army Gen. Henry Shelton to become chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

Gen. Shelton, a tough 55-year-old Green Beret paratrooper who led U.S. forces in Haiti, replaces Gen. John Shalikashvili as JCS chairman. He will be the third army general in a row to fill a job that traditionally has

rotated among army, navy and air force officers.

The Senate approved Gen. Shelton on a voice vote without dissent. Gen. Shelton is now head of the U.S. Special Operations Command based in Tampa, Florida, and will serve a two-year term. Gen. Shalikashvili is to retire until the end of this month.

At his nomination hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier

this month, Gen. Shelton said he supported President Bill Clinton's plan to remove troops from Bosnia in mid-1998. However, committee members expressed concern about the lack of an explicit strategy for removing U.S. military peacekeepers from the troubled country.

He won a unanimous recommendation of approval from the committee whose members said they were

impressed with his promises to focus on the welfare of troops and his support for efforts to modernise U.S. weaponry for the 21st century.

Gen. Shelton's nomination in July came after U.S. Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, vice chairman of the joint chiefs, withdrew from the running due to revelations he had an adulterous affair in the past.

Weather hampers search for U.S., German planes

WINDHOEK (R) — A U.S. team scouring the South Atlantic for further signs of two military planes believed to have collided off the African coast ended a night search after six hours Wednesday with little to report.

The overall result was not as good as we anticipated," U.S. Air Force Colonel Dennis Barnett told reporters in the Namibian capital of Windhoek.

Dense fog, winds and choppy seas hampered the overnight search by the crew of a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules using night vision goggles and infra-red equipment.

Col. Barnett said a U.S. team of investigators was en route to Namibia to help.

The U.S. was also consid-

ering bringing in deep-sea salvage equipment to look for the flight recorder of the downed U.S. Starlifter in waters estimated at between 800 and 2,000 metres deep, he said.

"We will continue looking for it. There is a possibility of finding it and we are hopeful," Col. Barnett said.

Officials said the German Air Force Tupolev 154 had three flight recorders on board, of which two were data collectors and the other a voice recorder.

Hopes of finding survivors were fading as the search entered its fourth day but rescue officials said they would continue through the day.

Another night search would be mounted Wednesday night, with officials

hoping to bring in an Orion aircraft which can cope with bad weather.

German Air Transport Command Chief General Gerhard Back told reporters any decision to call off the search operation would be taken by Washington and Bonn but said that at the moment there was no consideration of giving it up.

Six search planes were expected to be used during the day with assistance from a French frigate, the Floreal.

The first debris spotted at the site where the freak accident is thought to have occurred is being transported by ship and is due to reach the port of Walvis Bay by late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning for inspection.

Only one body — be-

lieved to be one of the three women on board the German plane — has been recovered so far. The body was expected to be identified later Wednesday.

The remaining 32 people on board the two planes are still missing.

The giant U.S. Starlifter was returning with its crew of nine to a base on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic after dropping off mine-removal trainers and equipment in Namibia.

The German plane carrying 24 people was on its way to a naval regatta in Cape Town and apparently entered the suspected collision area about the same time as the Starlifter.

Crashes spoil improving U.S. air accident record

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two F-16 fighter jets collided off the New Jersey coast, in the fifth accident involving U.S. military aircraft in four days, an "accident too many" spoiling the country's steadily improving military crash record.

"One accident is one accident too many," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday, promising that all the recent crashes would be thoroughly investigated.

The Air Force's fleet of F-117 Stealth fighters remained grounded after a spectacular

air show crash over the weekend but the Pentagon said there were no plans for a broader safety slowdown.

The latest accident occurred late Tuesday when two Air National Guard F-16 fighter jets on a routine night training mission collided 48 kilometres southeast of Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The pilot of one aircraft managed to fly his damaged F-16 back to his base near Atlantic City, while the two pilots of the other plane ejected and were picked up by the Coast Guard. They

suffered only minor injuries.

The accident occurred over one of the busiest air corridors in the United States where a high number of near misses have been reported, as air traffic controllers are often overwhelmed by the sheer volume of traffic.

On Monday, a U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18D Hornet went down off the North Carolina coast killing its pilot and a weapons officer during a training mission.

That followed a \$45 million F-117 Stealth fighter that lost a chunk of its wing

and plummeted into a residential neighbourhood Sunday during an airshow near Baltimore, Maryland. The pilot ejected to safety and four people on the ground were injured.

Experts from manufacturer Lockheed Martin and the air force are still trying to figure out what happened, and are keeping the remaining 53 Stealth fighters on the ground as a precaution.

The plane that crashed was built in 1981 and was one of the first Stealth fighters to enter service, Mr. Bacon said.



The topmost floor of a seven-storey office block comes crashing down as the search for survivors continued Wednesday. Seven people were killed and 13 are still believed to be trapped beneath piles of concrete and metal after the top three floors of the Bombay building caved in Tuesday (Reuters photo)

7 die, 13 trapped in India office collapse

BOMBAY (R) — Thirteen people remained trapped beneath piles of concrete and metal a day after an office block collapsed in Bombay, killing at least seven people, officials said Wednesday.

Workers used pickaxes and blowtorches in a race to free them from the ruins of the unstable seven-storey office block in the Worli district of India's commercial capital.

Another 35 people were injured when the rear section of the top three floors of the building caved in Tuesday, authorities said.

"We estimate there are still 13 people trapped," a senior fire brigade official said. "But the chances of anybody being alive are becoming less," he added.

"We think there are four customers trapped in the basement," said an official of the Standard Chartered Bank, which had safe deposit vaults in the building's basement.

Tumbling debris from the

upper floors have blocked exits from the basement.

A Standard Chartered employee died in the crash, as well as a member of the security agency that guarded the branch, he added.

Search teams were hampered by falling masonry as the fragile block shook.

Labourer Laxman Kekade was pulled from under a pile of rubble, badly injured but still alive. Mr. Kekade could only groan weakly as he was put into an ambulance and taken to hospital.

Weeping relatives stood in pouring rain amid piles of rubble, hoping for news. Some were too numb to speak.

"I'm looking for my daughter. I've been waiting here since I heard the news and still they haven't found her," an elderly woman said, wiping away tears.

Many neighbouring buildings were evacuated and stood empty.

Searchers said they had uncovered a corpse in the

debris. "He was squashed beneath a cupboard. All the files in it had spilled out and covered him," a witness said.

Police officials said most of the 35 survivors rescued so far had only minor injuries.

Many of the building's occupants said they escaped because the structure started rumbling and shaking a few minutes before it collapsed, while many others were out at lunch.

"It's too early to say specifically what the cause (of the collapse) was," a fire brigade official said. "That will take some time."

Civic officials said the seven-storey office block was built in 1976. They attributed the collapse to the gradual corrosion of the structure by waves, winds and torrential rain during the monsoon season.

But state government officials Tuesday said they suspected neglect could be the reason, and set up an investigating panel.

Indian oil refinery toll reaches 51; more bodies feared trapped

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian minister has ruled out sabotage as the cause of an inferno in a three-day oil refinery as the death toll in the disaster climbed to 51 Wednesday.

Rescuers warned more bodies could be buried at the burnt out refinery complex in the southern port of Visakhapatnam, news agencies said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the fatalities the fire, which broke out Sunday following an explosion in the state-run refinery, had risen to 51 following the discovery of another body.

"It is feared that over 20 bodies might still be trapped underneath the wreckage," PTI reported. A refinery spokesman told PTI: "We hope to complete the debris clearance operation (Wednesday)."

Indian Petroleum Minister Jamshwar Mishra said investigators had reported the fire was not due to sabotage.

He also promised after visiting the disaster site that the government would review "safety norms of refineries throughout the country."

The refinery is owned by the Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (HPCL). The firm initially suggested sabotage could be behind the inferno, which forced about 150,000 local residents to flee. The HPCL said it suspected sabotage.

The company said Wednesday about 170 people were working at the time of the fire.

They included part-time employees whose names were not available with the company.

The refinery had shut down operations for its annual maintenance when the disaster struck.

PTI said a HPCL canteen appeared to be the cause of a death trap following the blaze.

"We can see at least three bodies under the rubble at the canteen," Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner R.P. Meena told PTI. Rescuers used cranes to lift the tonnes of debris.

The cost of the fire has been estimated at around \$400 million. The company says 11 storage tanks, with 27,000 tonnes of petroleum products, were lost.

Six buildings in the sprawling HPCL complex were also destroyed, while nearby buildings, including a naval base and a dockyard, were also damaged.

Meanwhile, India's main opposition party Wednesday blamed "criminal negligence" for the fire and accused the federal government of trying to stage a cover-up.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) urged New Delhi to file criminal cases against officials of the refinery and also demanded a judicial inquiry.

PTI quoted Mr. Khurana as saying in Visakhapatnam that HPCL executives had betrayed a "callous disregard" for safety standards.

"We want a judicial investigation," he said. "The earlier inquiry ordered by the government will only cover up the failures of the HPCL management."

Mr. Khurana said the refinery failed to initiate adequate safety measures after a fire in November left three people dead.

"We should learn lessons from the bitter experience of the Bhopal tragedy," Mr. Khurana said, referring to a massive gas leak from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in 1984 that killed 7,000 people.

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Mir's orientation system is back on line

MOSCOW (AP) — The Mir's orientation system was back on line Wednesday, keeping the station pointed toward the sun and recharging solar batteries that were drained during the most recent computer breakdown, officials said.

Lights were switched back on in most of the station, which had been using only limited light for more than two days as the crew tried to save energy while assembling a replacement computer.

The crew was expected to reconnect the electricity supply to the Priroda module, which had been cut off from power since a space collision in June, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported, citing mission control officials.

The June collision with a cargo ship badly damaged the Mir's Spektr module, which has been sealed off. But it also caused energy problems for the Priroda module, one of six modules that make up the Mir.

The computer crash Sunday — the fourth in two months — posed no danger for the Russian-American crew, which was able to keep essential functions operating. But the breakdown added to the doubts about the 11-year-old station's safety.

Critics say that the station, which had been designed to last only five years, has become unsafe and should be abandoned. But Russian officials, insisting that the problems are well under control, want to keep the Mir operating at least until the international space station is put in orbit, a mission set to start next year.

The international station, which involves contributions by the Americans, European nations, the Japanese and the Russians, has been delayed because Russia has fallen behind schedule due to money problems.

An official with the Russian Space Agency — which controls the construction of Russia's share of the station — said Wednesday the project may be delayed again if the Russian government does not pay the money it owes to the agency.

The space agency still hasn't received the 700 billion rubles (\$120 million) that the government was to send by July, Aleksei Krasnov, the deputy chief of the agency's international cooperation department, told ITAR-TASS.

"We have already exhausted our credit of trust from foreign partners, so the schedule of the (international station) construction must not be revised any more," Mr. Krasnov said, adding that he hoped the funds would come through this month.

On the Mir, the crew was checking the remaining systems that were still down after the computer crash, mission control spokesman, Valery Lyudin was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying.

After several days filled with repair work, the Russian cosmonauts were able to resume scientific experiments Wednesday, the Interfax news agency reported.

NASA astronaut, Michael Foale was to continue working on his greenhouse and to pack equipment he will take back to earth when he returns home on the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis.

The shuttle is set to blast off Sept. 25 for a docking with the Mir. The shuttle will bring Mr. Foale's replacement, David Wolf.



CANINE RESCUED: A rescue worker holds a dog after it was rescued from a house destroyed by a landslide, triggered by torrential rains in Kagoshima after typhoon Oliva hit Kyushu. The powerful typhoon stormed through the southern Japanese island of Kyushu on Tuesday killing at least six people and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes (Reuters photo)

Azerbaijan accuses Armenia of having nuclear weapons

TASHKENT (AFP) — Azerbaijan Tuesday accused Armenia of receiving deliveries of nuclear warheads and of developing a nuclear weapons programme, at an international conference here.

"Azerbaijan is very worried about Armenia's policy in the field of nuclear arms," Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov said.

"Even if Armenia is not on the list of countries capable of possessing nuclear weapons, we have proof of Armenia's intention of possessing nuclear weapons," he continued.

"The weapons which Armenia has recently received include nuclear warheads," the minister said without specifying where the arms came from.

He said Armenia was developing its nuclear weapons programme at secret bases and already possessed a nuclear capability.

Armenia is not taking part in the Tashkent Conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation which ends Tuesday.

Relations have been extremely tense between the two former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia since the fall of the USSR at the end of 1991.

The principal bone of contention is the situation in the separatist Azeri region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is primarily peopled with Armenians.

Meanwhile, Washington's peace envoy for Karabakh will travel to the region next week for talks with Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders, officials said Tuesday.

Envoy Lynn Pascoe will seek to advance the U.S. effort to seek a peace settlement for the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Armenians are seeking independence from Baku.

"This is what we hope will be the beginning of much more intense discussions with the parties," said a State Department official, who asked not to be named.

Mr. Pascoe is due to travel to Yerevan, Baku and Stepanakert for talks that come on the heels of elections earlier this month in Nagorno-Karabakh that appear to have strengthened the hand of separatists.

Arkady Gukasyan, the newly elected leader of Nagorno-Karabakh, has vowed to settle for nothing less than full independence from Azerbaijan.

Ethnic-Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh drove out Azerbaijani forces in a 1988-1994 war that killed 20,000 people and resulted in the flight of the enclave's ethnic-Azeri population. A shaky ceasefire has been in effect since May 1994.

The United States, France and Russia have put forward a draft settlement that would grant the territory a high degree of autonomy.

Washington hopes that an accord can be signed before the end of the year.

Italian American groups say U.N. Security Council plan snubs Italy

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Representatives of Italian American groups launched a campaign Tuesday to oppose a U.S.-backed plan to enlarge the Security Council by adding permanent seats for Germany and Japan, but not Italy.

Martin Picillo, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organisations, called it a "plan that does nothing to strengthen America's interests, that does nothing to strengthen the U.N.'s interests, and that snubs one of America's most valued allies, Italy, and in the process, Italian Americans."

He told a news conference at the United Nations that the American people "do not share the State Department's obsession" with adding Germany and Japan as permanent council members.

"Italian American organisations are launching a nation-wide drive to convince the president and Congress to reject any U.N. charter amendment that excludes Italy from a meaningful role in new Security Council arrangements," he added.

Taking part in the news conference were the leaders of organisations said to represent 22 million Italian Americans and two former U.S. ambassadors to Italy, Peter Secchia and Maxwell Rabb.

"We call upon our elected officials to resist the State Department's vision of a Washington-Berlin-Tokyo Axis," Mr. Picillo said.

The United States said earlier this year it favoured giving permanent council seats to Germany and Japan and adding three more permanent seats for developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Italian U.N. envoy Francesco Paolo Fulci has strongly opposed adding any new permanent members. The council at present consists of five permanent members with the power of veto — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — and 10 non-permanent members.

Mr. Fulci proposes instead adding a number of non-permanent seats, with a rotating system favouring countries making a greater contribution

to the purposes of the organisation.

Any reform of the council would require endorsement by two-thirds of the 185-member General Assembly and parliamentary ratification by two-thirds of the U.N. members, including all five current permanent members.

Mr. Picillo said that, under a new scale of U.N. contributions likely to come into effect in January, Italy would become the fifth largest contributor to the U.N. budget, ahead of Britain, Russia and China.

"And Italy has been a far more active leader in international peace operations than either Tokyo or Berlin," he said, referring to the reluctance of Japan and Germany, until recently, to provide troops for U.N. peace missions.

"We are especially concerned that the plan lumps Italy with the tiniest mini-states in a fourth-rate category. Can a classless America push for a United Nations divided into classes?" he said.

OSCE presses ahead with count for hotly contested Bosnia polls

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnia's election supervisors, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), pressed ahead Wednesday with tallying ballots from the republic's hotly contested weekend local polls.

A second central counting centre for the tens of thousands of votes cast by Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and Croats was to start operation Wednesday in the Serb-held Sarajevo district of Lukavica, an OSCE spokeswoman said.

"There are a few postal ballots still to come in, but everything appears to be going very smoothly," OSCE spokeswoman Betty Dawson said.

To enable refugees living abroad to vote in the crucial election which is intended to pave the way for their return to their pre-war homes, some 400,000 voters abroad were registered to cast their ballots by mail.

Political parties have

already issued some results, but the counting currently underway in two special centres in Sarajevo of the absentee votes could still influence the final outcome.

The count comes amid continuing controversy over a decision by OSCE Bosnia mission chief, Robert Frowick, to overrule a judgement by an election legal body to punish the main Serb party for its links to indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

OSCE sources said members of the Election Appeals Sub-Commission (EASC) headed by a Norwegian judge and including other international legal experts were considering resigning over Mr. Frowick's decision.

The sources added that the four-member legal team would meet Mr. Frowick Wednesday morning to discuss the issue.

On Monday the watchdog had issued a toughly-worded ruling excluding SDS

candidates in Pale from the Saturday-Sunday vote.

"The EASC will not turn a blind eye to the continuing and increasingly transparent role played by Radovan Karadzic in the affairs of the SDS," it said.

Mr. Frowick's decision was also condemned by an independent group monitoring the Bosnia peace process, which said it showed lack of Western resolve to enforce the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the Bosnian war.

"If we will make concessions and forget the Dayton provisions everytime they threaten violence, why the hell are we here?" said Hrair Balian, head of the International Crisis Group, a U.S.-based organisation.

But an OSCE spokesman justified Mr. Frowick's ruling, saying security concerns and the peace process were paramount.

"Ambassador Frowick felt that with the extraordinary challenges ahead in imple-

menting the results of the elections, the effects of the decision would have greatly undermined the OSCE's ability to implement the elections results," OSCE spokesman David Foley said.

He added that while Mr. Karadzic — twice indicted by The Hague-based war crimes tribunal for his role in wartime atrocities — continues to wield influence in Bosnia, the OSCE "has done all that it can do" about him.

Last weekend's two-day polls, the results of which are expected Saturday, are considered a key part of the 1995 accords.

The polls are intended to establish new-style local government in Bosnia's two halves — the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska — and pave the way for the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced during the 43-month war.

Japan SDP threatens to pull out of alliance

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Social Democratic Party (SDP) threatened Wednesday to pull out of a parliamentary alliance with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) if a minister convicted of bribery is retained.

The rift in the fragile alliance follows last week's move by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to appoint Koko Sato as minister heading the management and coordination agency, in charge of Mr. Hashimoto's ambitious reform programme.

Mr. Sato, 69, was sentenced in 1986 to a two-year suspended prison term for accepting bribes in a scandal involving Japanese purchases of Lockheed planes.

"Mr. Sato should be removed. Otherwise the alliance cannot continue," SDP secretary general, Shigeru Ito, told reporters before a meeting with LDP counterpart, Koichi Kato and Hiroyuki Sonoda, secretary general of New Party Sakigake, the third party in the alliance.

Mr. Sonoda said a withdrawal from the three-party alliance was "possible" if Mr. Sato was not removed. "We share the SDP's views," he was quoted as saying.

An SDP official said no progress was made at the meeting and that further talks might be held Thursday after Mr. Kato reported back to the LDP executive.

"Circumstances are changing, as upper house members of the three parties are considering a possible censure motion," the official was quoted as saying.

During Wednesday's meeting, the two smaller parties reportedly accused the LDP of being "increasingly arrogant" towards the Japanese public.

Mr. Hashimoto earlier acknowledged that Mr. Sato's appointment — under pressure from former prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone — was responsible for a sharp decline in the government's approval rating in weekend polls.

"I take this as harsh criticism from the public," he was quoted as telling reporters at his official residence.

Three polls found that between two thirds and three quarters of voters disapproved of the new cabinet formed by Mr. Hashimoto last Thursday, with only one quarter to one third supporting the government.

In a related development, Mr. Nakasone reportedly apologised for "causing so much trouble" but said he hoped the issue would be "peacefully" settled.

Khmer Rouge clash with Cambodian troops in west

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed a military victory in the distant northwest Wednesday as rebels loyal to ousted Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh clashed with government troops in the west.

The guerrillas said in a radio broadcast they had defeated government troops and taken control of a remote district near the border with Vietnam.

"On Sept. 14 national soldiers and the people, who understand the new strategic policy joined together to fight and completely liberate Kaoh Nhek district town in Monduliri province," the radio said in a broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh.

"After liberating the district town, all villages and communes in the whole of Kaoh Nhek district were completely controlled," the radio said.

Clandestine Khmer Rouge Radio, for years the propaganda mouthpiece of the Maoist movement, said 15 government militia members had "confessed" and given up fighting for the government.

A senior official in the ministry of defence in Phnom Penh dismissed the rebel claim but said there were some Khmer Rouge fighters in the province.

"It is not true that they control that district but we know about 100 Khmer Rouge operate in the province, sabotaging and extorting money from villagers," General Prak Sovannak told Reuters.

In western Cambodia clashes between a group of Khmer Rouge fighters and government troops continued Wednesday, another government commander said.

Government forces had been skirmishing with 200 to 300 Khmer Rouge rebels allied to ousted First Prime Minister Ranariddh in the Samlot region since late last week, General Ko Chean said.

The rebels were part of a larger Khmer Rouge faction which defected to the government side last year. There have been sporadic clashes in the area since August.

Gen. Ko Chean said government reinforcements had been sent to the area. He said he had no information on casualties in the fighting.

The Khmer Rouge were responsible for the death of more than one million Cambodians in vast agricultural labour camps during their 1975-79 "killing fields" rule.

Over recent years many Khmer Rouge

have defected to the government but a hard-line faction of several thousand still operates out of their Anlong Veng base in the north of the country.

The rebels, who purged their notorious leader Pol Pot at the end of July, have been helping forces under Prince Ranariddh battle government forces around the northwestern border town of O'Smach.

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge soldier who broke with Pol Pot in 1977, ousted Prince Ranariddh on July 6. The two premiers had set up a coalition government after U.N.-run elections in 1993 but bitter rivalry over the allegiance of defecting Khmer Rouge units and rows over power-sharing plagued their administration.

When toppled, Prince Ranariddh was on the verge of signing a political alliance with the Khmer Rouge leaders who purged Pol Pot and sentenced him to life under house arrest.

Prince Ranariddh Wednesday hailed parliament's failure to approve a controversial cabinet reshuffle as a denunciation of the new Phnom Penh regime.

In a statement, the ousted prince's cabinet said the vote was a "drastic step" in rejecting the demands of Mr. Hun Sen.

"This is the first time that the current National Assembly has taken such a drastic step in rejecting Hun Sen's nominations for ministerial portfolios," statement said.

It added the vote "clearly puts an end to the often-repeated assertion that the so-called coalition government established after the violent coup d'etat is working in 'good condition'."

On Tuesday, the reshuffle, which would have further consolidated Mr. Hun Sen's power, failed when only 67 MPs voted in favour of it, 13 less than the two-thirds majority needed to pass ministerial changes.

The move, which many expected the normally compliant parliament to pass overwhelmingly, would have removed four Ranariddh loyalists — who either fled the country after the prince's ouster in July or had not returned to Cambodia from prior trips abroad — from five cabinet-level positions.

It would also have replaced nine pro-Ranariddh secretaries of state or deputy ministers and created a new ministerial post, women's affairs.

Poland joins NATO accession talks

BRUSSELS (R) — Poland Tuesday became the second former Soviet-Bloc country to open talks on NATO membership, in an exercise aimed at extending the Western defence alliance beyond the former iron curtain in 1999.

Less than a week after Hungary opened its own talks, Poland joined NATO's eastwards expansion train at a two-hour meeting aimed at assessing how Warsaw can meet its political commitments.

"The discussion was very specific and detailed on many issues," Deputy Foreign Minister Andrzej Towpik told reporters after the first of up to five negotiating sessions aimed at sealing deals by end October.

The Czech Republic, the third former Eastern foe singled out to join the alliance at a historic Madrid summit in July, starts its own talks on Sept. 23.

If all goes to plan accession protocols should be forwarded for ministerial approval before the year end, giving NATO's sixteen members and the three

would be members a full year in which to ratify the agreements.

Extending NATO beyond the iron curtain in time for its 50th birthday in April 1999.

The initial talks focus primarily on protocol, ensuring that the would be members understand and accept the principles of NATO's 1949 founding Washington Treaty, budgetary requirements, participation in its command structure and internal security.

Poland insists that parliamentary elections which over the next days may bring a sweeping change in government will not impact on its drive to join the alliance.

Such is the general agreement in Poland over the need to enter NATO fast that the outcome of the Sept. 21 polls, pitting the ruling ex-Communists against a Solidarity Trade Union-led alliance, is not expected to influence the talks.

"As you know the positions of the parties participating in the elections on NATO are totally the

same," Mr. Towpik told reporters.

Poland escaped Moscow's domination when Communist rule collapsed in 1989 and is eager to bind itself to the West.

Opinion polls show about 80 per cent of Poles want to join NATO and the current government does not consider that a referendum on the issue is necessary.

Poland sees gaining the necessary two-thirds majority for ratification of NATO's expansion in the U.S. Senate as its greatest challenge, because some senators have doubts.

Deputy Defence Minister Andrzej Karkoszka, who also attended Tuesday's negotiating session told reporters his delegation had not unveiled to its NATO counterpart a 15-year plan agreed by cabinet last week to modernise its forces up to NATO standards.

He said the issue could be discussed at the next negotiating session scheduled for Sept. 29, which will deal with defence and military issues.

Dr. Clare Brandabur

The World Wide Wait

By Jean-Claude Elias

THOSE WHO are very good at decrypting acronyms think they know what WWW stands for. They probably believe that the Internet-related term means World Wide Web. Maybe not anymore. A well-known American columnist has recently redefined it as the World Wide Wait. As tempting as it may be to agree with him, for the sake of sarcasm, some explanation is due here.

The real strength, the actual quality of any system made of several links or components, is that of its weakest link or component. Consider a stereo system, consisting of an amplifier, a pair of speakers, a CD player, a cassette deck and a radio tuner. The quality of the output cannot surpass that of the component of lowest quality — obviously. If the speakers generate distortion for example, using the best CD player won't improve the resulting sound at all.

The Internet also is a system with several components. In a simplified manner, they are your computer, its modem, the local telephone network, your server (the main computer to which you are linked and that connects you to the outside world) and the Web site you are contacting, which physically is also another server. It has become a trend recently to blame the Internet in a global, general way. Frustrated users are saying that it is terribly slow and that there are traffic jams, bottlenecks and all kind of problems that prevent a satisfactory access to the Web. It may be true, but one must know that often the degradation in performance is due to the technical capability and the "popularity" of the very site they are visiting.

Your PC, its modem, the quality of your local telephone network and the power of your local server are relatively well-known, and they have fixed values. What varies is



the "quality" of your Web contact. You may call www.hare.com and find it lightning fast, while contacting www.tortoise.com will bring you close to a heart attack because of its slowness. The probable reason will be that the computer server that "hare" is running is a Pentium Pro 200, whereas "tortoise" could be using a sluggish Pentium 100 or even a pre-historic 486. It could also be that when you contacted "hare" there were few other callers like you trying to access it, whereas hundreds were dialing "tortoise" at the same time. On another day, at another time you may have different results. It's like driving at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman — traffic is not the same at 2:00 p.m. as it may be at 11:00 p.m.

It has become a habit to blame our local telephone network or our ISP (Internet Service Provider, or local server). For having extensively used the Internet since the beginning of the year I can say the service we are getting in Jordan is good, more than decent. Cruising speed however may vary depending on the time of day and on the very Web site we are trying to reach.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, September 18, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Ovide And The Gang
2:30	The New Fred And Barney
3:00	America's Funniest People
3:30	He Shoots He Scores
4:30	Shingalana
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Trivial Pursuit
8:00	The Parenthood
8:30	Lois And Clark — Superman
9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
10:00	News In English
10:30	Movie
12:00	Step By Step
12:00	End Of T.X.

Friday, September 19, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Flintstones
2:30	Leo The Lion
3:00	Wishbone
3:30	French Programme
4:00	Family Matters
4:30	NBA
5:50	French Programme
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	The Health Show
8:30	Hawkeye Of Brisco County
9:10	Clive James Postcards
10:00	News In English
10:30	Best Seller
11:15	Movie Or Daddy's Girls

Saturday, September 20, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Twinkle
2:30	Muppet Show
3:00	Blue Heelers
3:30	World Of Geo
4:00	The Valley Between
4:30	Tilt
5:00	French Programme
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	The Newly Weds
8:30	Prism
9:10	Time Trax
10:00	News In English
11:15	Movie
12:00	End Of T.X.

Sunday, September 21, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Little Rosey
2:30	The Magic School Bus
3:00	Lucky Luke
3:40	Energy Express
4:00	American Chart Show
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines

7:35	Fresh Prince Of Belair
8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30	National Geographic
9:10	Renegade
10:00	News In English
10:30	One West Waikiki
11:15	Sisters
12:00	End Of T.X.

Monday, September 22, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	The Show With The Mouse
2:30	Cowboys Of The Moo Mesa
3:00	Gillette Sports Special
3:30	Deep Water Haven
4:00	Animal Show
4:30	Ocean Girl
5:15	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Murphy Brown
8:30	Babylon 5
9:10	Highlander
10:00	News In English
10:35	Emergency Room (E.R.)
11:15	Homicide
12:00	End Of T.X.

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Sandocan
2:30	C.R.O.
3:00	Square One T.V.
3:30	Skippy
4:00	Album Show
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Coach
8:00	Tilt 23.5
8:30	Encounter
9:10	Nature Of Things (Documentary)
10:00	News In English
10:30	Great Defender
11:15	I Remember Nelson
12:00	End Of T.X.

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Jonny Quest
2:30	Super Dave
3:00	Secrets Of Treasure Island
3:30	Spell Binder
4:00	Munsters Today
4:30	Border Town
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Soldier's Diary
8:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
9:10	Challenges
10:00	News In English
10:30	Land's End
11:15	American Gothic
12:00	End Of T.X.

Dwelling on the past gets us nowhere

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

DWELLING ON the past gets us nowhere. We need to look beyond it and into the future.

To make things easier to understand, compare two contrasting newspaper articles that appeared in the press during the last few days. One is taken from the local press here in Jordan while the other one is from the British press.

The first article appeared in Al Ra'i newspaper on Sept. 11 while the other appeared in the Independent newspaper on the Sept. 8.

In the former the author attacks the present state of mind of the Jordanian people calling for positive thinking by invoking the past.

He begins by describing how everyone living in Jordan today owes a great deal to the country, even for the air they breathe and the earth they step on. He then goes on to describe how Jordanians had helped in the past to build the many countries where they had been working, and how many had died defending many more.

He demands that we be grateful that our villages were never destroyed for voicing opposition to certain lifestyles.

He also mentions the many wars that Jordanians had fought to defend this country. He sketchily describes some of the particularities of the wars of 1967 and 1973 and goes to some lengths to highlight Jordanian bravery in battles.

In conclusion, he demands that we acknowledge that Jordan is doing extremely fine and that its citizens are its most important assets.

Our dear writer does not, even for a single moment, stop to think or to tell us how he proposes Jordan use its past achievements to create a brighter future.

It is very easy to quote the past when either defending or apologising for the present, but what we are seeking here, and what this column will seek from now on, are ways of creating this brighter future by building on the past. By using this past for our well being rather than for apologising for our present sorry state.

This is where the second newspaper article becomes relevant. And even though it talks about British particularities, there are many lessons to be learnt from the ideas it is meant to promote and its innovative concepts for future-building.



Its author argues for a new national identity for Britain because he claims that the British are somewhat confused about who they are today. He catches a popular introspective mood and outlines proposals for giving Great Britain a new image of itself fit for a new century.

To get his point across, he mentions how Ireland has recently transformed its image from that of rural, traditional Catholic country to an innovative Celtic tiger. And how Spain managed to shed the shadow of Franco and redefine itself as a modern democratic industrial nation using the Espana picture by Miro as a national logo symbolising a bright, optimistic young country.

He writes that the key to renewing identity is to define an ethos or story that is unique to the country and rooted in reality. What Britain needs, he says, is a story which makes sense of where it has come from, reflects the best of what it stands for today, and makes a very strong statement about where it is going.

The latter part of this last sentence is the one element that is until now missing from our local national debate in Jordan.

Somewhere amidst the realities, the lies, the propaganda and the good and bad of our lives lies this very strong statement that we seek in order to find that better fit between our heritage and our future.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

• The Bride's Cake

This important part of the wedding feast has come down from the Romans, who baked one compounded of flour, salt, and water, which was partaken of by the bridal pair and their friends as they witnessed the wedding contract.

• The Bride's Dowry

The phrase "with all my worldly wealth I thee endow" dates back to primitive times when a man bartered so many head of cattle for his bride. This money, known as "dowry", or "dower", was originally handed over during the ceremony, and in the course of centuries the bride's father provided its equivalent either in money or kind.

Later still the bride herself spun the linen for her portion, and was not regarded as eligible for widowhood until she had stocked a chest with her handiwork. The term spinster arose in this way, and if a girl's marriage was delayed until she was of mature age she occasionally sold the contents of her linen chest and set aside the proceeds as her dowry. The box, with a lid which is to be found in old-fashioned chests and trunks, was destined as receptacle for money thus earned and earmarked.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** No entrance.

Mamnoon' ad'dukhooh.

** No smoking.

Mamnoon' at-tad'kheen.

** Spitting prohibited

Mamnoon' al-basq.

** Admission free.

Ad-dukhooh majjanan.

** Entrance.

Dukhooh.

** Exit.

Khurooj.

** Information

Is'ti'lamat.

** Push

Id'fa al-bab.

** Pull

Is'bab al-bab.

** Open

Maftooh.

** Closed.

Mug'laq.

** No parking

Mamnoon' al-intizar!

** Flat to let.

Shuqqa lil'ejar.

** Beware of pickpockets.

Ihtaass min an'nash'shaleen.

** Pay at the cashier

Al-daf' fil khazina.

** Wet paint

Ihtaass min al-bouyah.

** Don't touch

Mamnoon' al-lams.

** Drive slowly

Suq bi-bot'

** Danger

Khatar.

** Stop.

Qaff.

** Ring the bell.

Doq al-jarass.

** Diversion

Mun'ataff.

** Keep off the grass.

Ibta'id an al-hashaa'ish.

** Pick no flowers.

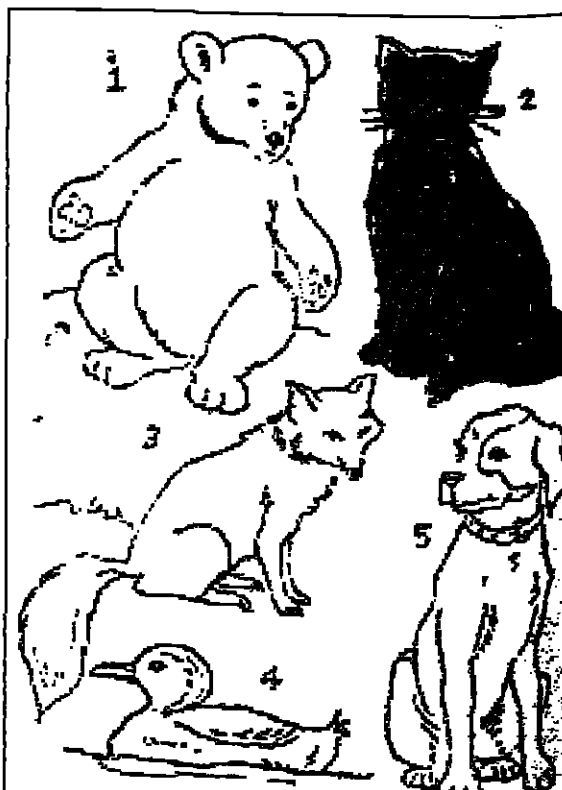
La taqtiff al-azhar.

** One-way traffic.

Tareeq fit-tijah wahid

JOKES

• A WOMAN asked her nephew: "What do you usually do on Saturday afternoon?"
"I go to see a football match."



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Drugs offer new hope for osteoporosis — studies

WASHINGTON (R) — Osteoporosis researchers have said that drugs were offering new hope for preventing and treating the disease.

Drugs such as Alendronate, sold by Merck as Fosamax, and Calcitonin-Salmon helped prevent new fractures in women who already suffered fractures and also in those at risk because their bones were thin.

The National Osteoporosis Foundation said it was especially excited about work with Calcitonin-Sal-

mon, a synthetic version of a natural hormone that is now available as a nasal spray. It is sold in the United States by Novartis and elsewhere by Cortes International.

More than 1,100 women in 42 different locations got either Calcitonin-Salmon or an inactive substance along with Vitamin D and calcium supplements.

Those who got Calcitonin showed "significant increases in bone density," scientists from Memorial Health Centre in Worcester, Massachusetts, Washington

University in St. Louis and several other universities told the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, holding its annual meeting in Cincinnati.

"Over a three-year period, the patients receiving the currently available dose (one spray daily) of Calcitonin-Salmon had 37 per cent fewer new spinal fractures than those receiving the placebo," they said.

Scientists at the University of California at San Francisco, working with Merck, had already found that Fosamax reduced the

risk of spine, hip and wrist fractures by about 50 per cent in women who had gone through the menopause and had suffered fractures due to thin bones.

They told the meeting that work with more than 4,000 women showed Fosamax slightly increased bone density and reduced the risk of spine fractures by 51 per cent over four years.

"Many women are not aware that the loss of height and stooped posture associated with osteoporosis is actually the result of fractures of the spinal bones,"

Sandra Raymond, executive director of the National Osteoporosis Foundation, said in a statement.

"If we can prevent multiple fractures from occurring in the spine, we can help women avoid the irreversible changes that happen as the spine collapses. Fractures and a shrinking frame are not inevitable consequences of aging."

The foundation estimates that 10 million Americans have osteoporosis and 18 million more, mostly women, have low bone mass that puts them at risk.

Experts say 200 million people worldwide suffer from the disease.

Other studies showed that new drugs still undergoing clinical tests before getting Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval may also offer hope.

Raloxifene, a member of a class of drugs known as Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators, seems to mimic some of the effects of Estrogen like preventing bone loss and lowering cholesterol. But it evidently does not increase certain risks of cancer.

A study of 143 women with osteoporosis indicated that Raloxifene helped prevent bone breakdown and reduced blood cholesterol levels.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, working with manufacturers Eli Lilly and Co. said it did not seem to work as effectively as Estrogen. But they said the drug would be useful for women with a history of breast cancer or others who would want to avoid Estrogen.

Strontium Ranelate also showed promise in increas-

ing bone density. Strontium is similar to calcium and seems to stimulate the bone producing cells known as osteoblasts.

Risendronate worked in the opposite way, by inhibiting osteoclasts — the cells that resorb, or dissolve, bone mass.

Yet another study showed that sodium monofluorophosphate — the active ingredient in many toothpastes — could also reduce fractures.

Doctor makes people nauseous to make them well

By John Hayes

Reuter

PITTSBURGH — Dr. Robert Stern's medical research makes people sick. Literally.

Dr. Stern, a psychology professor at Pennsylvania State University, has developed what he fondly calls the "Sick Machine." In technical terms, the device is an Optokinetic Drum that Dr. Stern said could condition people to become more immune to the unpleasantness of nausea.

"It's like getting sick for the first few days of a cruise. After a while you get used to the constant motion," he said. "We can desensitize people in three sessions, maybe four."

Dr. Stern developed the machine with Dr. Kenneth Koch, a gastroenterologist at Hershey Medical Centre. The drum fits over a person's head, much like a hair dryer at a beauty salon, and begins spinning with the flick of a switch. The inside of the drum is painted with black and white stripes, a pattern that in motion tends to induce a feeling of nausea.

The procedure could be helpful for people who often experience nausea such as patients undergoing chemotherapy, astronauts and military pilots. Dr. Stern said a few sessions with the sick machine could desensitize people to nausea so they are less likely to feel sick when they undergo an actual hospital treatment or get on a plane or boat.

'Sick Machine' could help cancer patients

The machine is stirring some interest in the medical community. Dr. Sean Burton, an oncologist in Chicago with a private practice, said Optokinetic Drum treatment could make life easier for cancer patients who receive chemotherapy treatments to kill cancer cells, which frequently leaves patients feeling nauseous.

"Maybe they could come in for such treatments before undergoing chemo and get used to the unpleasant feelings," he said.

Dr. Stern and Dr. Koch have researched the sensations of nausea for 15 years. Their research on tachygastric, the rhythm of stomach contractions that increases as vomiting becomes imminent, resulted in the first quantifiable scale

that could rate levels of nausea.

"We think, from an evolutionary standpoint, that nausea developed to prevent us from ingesting poison," Dr. Stern said. "Vomiting would remove poison from the system, but the unpleasant feelings associated with nausea would prevent us from eating any more (poison). I think of it like pain and fatigue. These are sensations we really dread, but they are lifesaving feelings that we couldn't live without."

That explains the sick stomach that can result from a night of barhopping or the side effects of many medical treatments. But Dr. Stern said the feeling of nausea associated with motion sickness is a physiological mistake.

Nervous system confused by motion

"We think what happens is a dissociation of sensory input to the brain," he said. "The unnatural motions experienced by the body send a signal to the brain that the brain misinterprets as poison-induced dizziness. The nervous system says 'gee, he just ate poison. We better make him vomit.'"

Dr. Stern said the sick machine has uncovered some possible genetic differences among people who may be more prone to nausea. For example, test subjects of Asian descent were more likely than others to vomit after treatment with the machine. "There is definitely a genetic predisposition to puke or not to puke," he said.

Barbara Stock, a Los Angeles anesthesiologist, said that type of information could be helpful when preparing patients for surgery, since anesthesia can make some people sick.

"Knowledge of racial and genetic tendencies toward nausea could make it easier to treat susceptible patients who are going under general anesthesia," she said. "If Asians are more likely to (feel) nausea, we could make conditioning a part of their pre-operative procedures."

New treatments for nausea are under development. Dr. Stern contracts with drug companies to test new products but said he is particularly interested in nonpharmaceutical means of reducing nausea.

"This whole area of nausea hasn't really been studied before," he said. "We're still at the beginning."

Virus protein may help fight HIV

By Maggie Fox

Reuter

WASHINGTON — A herpes virus that causes an AIDS-associated cancer may act as a kind of molecular spy against its own kind, offering valuable information on how to fight HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, researchers said.

They said human Herpesvirus 8 (HHV-8) has surrendered secrets about how it steals a gene from its human victim and uses it to invade cells in an act of "molecular piracy."

Thue Schwartz of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and a team of international colleagues, working with Glaxo-Wellcome, found the virus produces VMIP-II, a protein that looks like a

chemokine. Chemokines are signalling chemicals involved in immune response and known to be important to understanding how HIV works. HIV often uses the same receptors, or chemical doorways into cells, as Chemokines use.

Writing in the journal Science, they said VMIP-II acts as a blocking agent, binding to Chemokine receptors and preventing white blood cells from being attracted to the site of infection.

"Because VMIP-II could inhibit cell entry of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) ... this protein may serve as a lead for development of broad-spectrum anti-HIV agents," they wrote.

"No known human Che-

mokine has as broad a spectrum of activities as VMIP-II," they added.

Some of the receptors the VMIP-II blocks are CCR5 and CXCR4, known to be used by HIV. Recent research has found that different strains of HIV attach to different receptors, and the virus may switch to different receptors as it mutates.

Glaxo said in a statement that the biological process used by the HHV-8 virus to make VMIP-II was similar to standard drug discovery methods.

"The hope is that by understanding how the virus made this antagonist, we will learn lessons which will help us in the design of our own drugs," said Tim Wells of Glaxo's Institute of Biomedical Research in Geneva.

"VMIP-II will help us understand the structural differences between these two types of receptors and may lead to the discovery of a small molecule that would block both receptors," well added.

HHV-8 causes Kaposi's Sarcoma, a once-rare form of cancer that is now one of the marker diseases for AIDS. The virus is a relative of the viruses that cause genital herpes and cold sores.

Glaxo said HHV-8 was probably using the Chemokine to shut off the inflammatory response normally associated with a tumour, which means it could also be useful against inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or asthma.

Kenyan prostitutes may hold key to defeating AIDS

NAIROBI (R) — The slogan emblazoned on Eunice's shawl belies her sense of shame at being a prostitute in Kenya. But one day she might be allowed to feel a glimmer of pride.

"Don't be worried about what people say, it's their job to gossip," the slogan across her shawl reads in Kiswahili.

Eunice, which is not her real name, is one of a group of prostitutes attending Pumwani Clinic in a Nairobi slum to be monitored by a team of Kenyan and Canadian doctors working on a vaccine for HIV.

What makes Eunice stand out — though she does not know it — is that she is among the lucky few in her trade who appear to be immune from HIV and could hold the secret for stopping the deadly AIDS disease.

The project is widely regarded as being among the nearest to discovering the secret of defeating the incurable disease which experts say will infect 30 to 40 million people across the world by 2000.

But for both the project workers in Nairobi and the women they watch, the problem is the same — a chronic lack of money.

Sex trade thrives amid poverty

"Even if I told the man I had no food, my landlord has locked me out and the children have been chased out of school, he would not give me money for free without wanting me to make love to him," said 30-year-old Eunice.

Poverty forces thousands of prostitutes in Nairobi's Majengo slum to sell them-

selves for loose change. The Pumwani Clinic provides at least some health care and education to some women.

Eunice says she charges 40 Kenyan shillings (59 U.S. cents) from each of clients — men she says range from being old enough to be her father to young enough to be her teenage son.

The prostitutes' trade spreads the HIV virus that causes AIDS and robs them of the little security they can muster from working. Her husband died of AIDS in January last year.

"Before I used to get many, 10, 11 or up to 15 (clients) in one day," she said. But that was at the peak of her trade in the mid-80s. Now, with chronic asthma, she has three or four clients a week.

But in one respect, Eunice remains one of the luckiest prostitutes on the planet without being told about it. She is one of about five per cent of the Pumwani prostitutes who seem to be immune from HIV and may hold a key to discovering a vaccine.

Unlike 60 per cent of her fellow prostitutes, Eunice is not destined to die a slow death from AIDS. The clinic however does not tell the prostitutes who appear to be immune that they are special.

Prostitutes genetically immune to HIV

Professor Frank Plummer from the University of Manitoba in Canada has been in charge of the project, a collaboration between universities in Kenya, Europe and North America, since founding it in 1985.

"If you can understand what protects them, you can

try to duplicate it in the sense of making a vaccine," he said.

The HIV virus is tough to treat because it avoids the body's immune system by hiding inside cells. Mr. Plummer and his team think women who avoid HIV from hundreds of exposures by unprotected sex have certain genes that strengthen their immune system.

"These women and other people like them have a cellular immune response to HIV, their white blood cells recognise HIV and kill them," he said.

There are many different strains of HIV, making developing drugs much harder. But the seemingly immune Pumwani women are able to fight the virus despite being exposed to many different varieties.

"The cellular immune response appears to act against many different strains of HIV, that would be a vaccinologists' dream," said Mr. Plummer, adding he was confident that ultimately they would solve the HIV riddle and come up with the basis for a vaccine.

Lack of funds hinder progress

The project at Pumwani is one of the longest-running of its kind, and is widely regarded as being at the forefront of AIDS research. "It's on the leading edge, it's very hot stuff," Mr. Plummer said.

As poverty drives the sex trade that could yield the clue to defeating AIDS, a lack of funds hinder researchers' progress.

"The costs of running the project are exorbitant," said Kenyan doctor Ephraim Njage who works on the

project, which is backed largely by the Canadian government.

The total cost of the clinic and research is around \$400,000 per year — loose change for rich countries and drug companies.

But doctors say that after disappointments with overhyped vaccines in the past, and more money in expensive drugs to be sold to the more wealthy, drug companies are reluctant to gamble on their work.

"We could always go faster with more money, get more done. It's very frustrating," says Mr. Plummer. "What we pay athletes, TV stars, it makes me think we've got our priorities mixed up."

Vaccine only hope for millions in Kenya

Kenya's Health Ministry forecasts that 2.1 million people in the East African country could die from AIDS by 2005, adding the milestone of millions of orphans to the struggling economy.

Kenya spends around \$12 per year on health care per person.

"I pray God helps me to do well in my business so that I can stop being a prostitute," said Eunice, who has just found some work sewing children's clothing.

If Mr. Plummer and his colleagues can achieve their goal, then it might even solve the deep financial problems facing Eunice.

"I would propose people who contributed to the development of a vaccine would benefit," said Mr. Plummer. "What we might do is start a company and give the shares to the women of Pumwani."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PARLEY VOUS?

By Edgar R. Fontaine

Edited by Herb Ettenson

- ACROSS
- 1 Beach stuff
 - 2 See — for try to (verb)
 - 3 British naval vessel
 - 4 Bore on a river
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- 1 Dean
 - 2 Hunter Waugh
 - 3 River in Italy
 - 4 French city
 - 5 Colloquial
 - 6 Indian police station
 - 7 Howard and Reagan
 - 8 David, Goliath
 - 9 A card game
 - 10 Compete
 - 11 Leaves one's party
 - 12 Unwashed
 - 13 Temporal school
 - 14 Island in the Aegean
 - 15 A river
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Diagramless, 19x19

By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
- 1 Woodshed
 - 2 Figure skater
 - 3 Greek god
 - 4 Food fish
 - 5 Golf lie
 - 6 Tennis great
 - 7 Instant
 - 8 Get down to the nitty-gritty
 - 9 Headly times
 - 10 Tense water
 - 11 Canopy
 - 12 Knight's wear
 - 13 Surrender by deed
 - 14 Decades
 - 15 Beauty parlors
 - 16 Look for bargains
 - 17 Pinch of ice
 - 18 Purnell
 - 19 Michael here
 - 20 Darny
 - 21 Baseball great
 - 22 Blow a horn
 - 23 Anna's del
 - 24 Sicilian mount
 - 25 Spanish letter
 - 26 Green letter
 - 27 Jarrah
 - 28 Old World
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 - 30 Letterman
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 - 100 Rancid

Diagramless, 19x19

By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
- 1 Woodshed
 - 2 Figure skater
 - 3 Greek god
 - 4 Food fish
 - 5 Golf lie
 - 6 Tennis great
 - 7 Instant
 - 8 Get down to the nitty-gritty
 - 9 Headly times
 - 10 Tense water
 - 11 Canopy
 - 12 Knight's wear
 - 13 Surrender by deed
 - 14 Decades
 - 15 Beauty parlors

The writer contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Spain 1st European country to grant Jordan \$1m, embassy says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spain was the first European country to announce a financial contribution of \$1 million in aid to Jordan, the Spanish embassy said in a press release Wednesday.

Spain's contribution came following a special appeal by the Kingdom to the European Union (EU) to increase its financial aid to assist the country in carrying out its economic reform programme.

"This measure represents the constant will of Spain to maintain a strong and solid cooperation with the Jordanian leadership and people, and also to help Jordan, in every way possible, to

successfully overcome all the difficulties it is facing," the statement said.

Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs, Jawad Anani Tuesday announced that Jordan is expected to receive \$75-80 million in financial aid from the EU this year.

Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Ammari told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the EU last year committed European Currency Units (ECUs) 100 million (\$128 million) in support of the Kingdom's balance of payments. Sixty million ECUs (\$76.8 million) have already been released, Dr.

Ammari said. The remaining ECUs 40 million (\$51.2 million) are expected to be released this month, he added.

Dr. Anani said the European Council of Ministers earlier this week decided to allocate \$15 million in additional financial aid to Jordan.

Several European countries, in addition have announced financial support to the Kingdom totalling \$10-12 million, he added.

"Jordan is expected to receive additional financial assistance of \$30 million from the EU next year, and more than \$70 million in

1999," Dr. Anani said.

The EU's decision to increase its financial assistance to the Kingdom followed a visit to six European countries by Dr. Anani and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf.

During the visit, which took the delegation to the United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Luxembourg, France and Belgium, Jordan stressed the need for increased financial support from the EU in line with the Middle East Peace and Stability Fund announced by the U.S. this year.

UAE to set up first Islamic insurance company

DUBAI (AFP) — Local investors Tuesday announced an accord to set up the first Islamic insurance venture in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a capital of \$38.1 million.

Subscription for 7.7 million shares worth 77 million dirhams (\$20.9 million), accounting for 55 per cent of the capital, will open in October and confined to UAE nationals, they said in a statement.

The Islamic Insurance Company (IIC), to be based in Dubai with branches around the UAE and abroad, will provide services "which follow the principles and rules of Islamic Sharia (law)," the statement said, without elaborat-

ing.

Union Trust, a Dubai-based private company which will manage subscription, said the remaining capital would come from UAE shareholders, including businessmen and government officials.

The statement said shareholders agreed on the creation of a "Sharia Compliance Board" comprising leading Muslim scholars to supervise IIC's activities.

The UAE, a major oil producer, already has the second biggest Islamic bank and is in the process of setting up the top Islamic bank in the world.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You've got money coming in from work you've already done. If you don't get a check in the mail, maybe it's because you forgot to send those people a bill. If you're an employee, make sure you've submitted your hours accurately. Pay attention to the bottom line.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're practical, hard-working, and very good looking. People respect and admire you. They're coming to you for advice. You're lucky in romance, too. You'll still have to work, but that's not a problem. Finish a few major business deals to cinch your fortune and secure your future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The person you owe is not going to take any excuses. If it's some sort of an agency, just provide what they want. If you're having trouble deciding what you should buy for the house, do more research.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The hard part is over. You have already succeeded at whatever it was you were going to do. Now you'll have a chance to play with your friends. A meeting around lunchtime would be invigorating for all of you. Not only can you catch up on the news, but you'll also empower each other.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An authority figure is watching to make sure you're doing everything right. This person is going to be very picky. He or she is concerned about quality and money. Make those your top priorities too, and you'll score. Your reward will be in your income.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There's no need to have your whole life be about business. You need to have some fun, too. Scout out a way to finance the vacation of your dreams. You could get a fabulous opportunity soon. This won't just fall into your lap. You'll have to make it happen.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It's a fine day to

ask for a loan. People will be falling all over themselves to give you money. Are you buying a new living room suite or a whole new house? Shop around. If you've already been there and done that, make the decision. If you know a good bargain when you see it, grab it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Taurus is a stubborn, slow, deliberate type of sign. Taurus are always taking care of others. They sacrifice a lot to make sure their families have plenty, for example. You're more likely to send the kids out to work. The two of you make a good team, for exactly that reason.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel like you can overcome any obstacle. That's good, because there are a couple of them out there. The most noticeable has to do with money. Instead of spending too much, invite the gang over to your place. None of them can really afford that expensive excursion either.

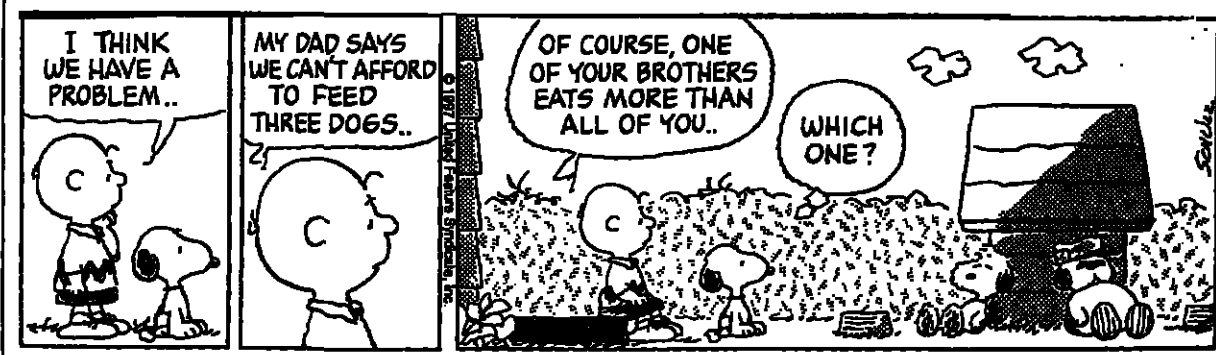
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are lucky in everything you try. It's a good day to travel, especially if you can take your sweetheart along. One thing could easily lead to another, ending in a marvelous new romantic commitment. If you've been thinking about getting married, that could happen.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go shopping for a household item you've been meaning to buy. You can get a pretty good deal if you talk to a friend in the business. Somebody you know may have what you want and be willing to trade. To find out, you'll have to let people know what you need. Advertise!

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) It's not only a good time for buying and selling, it's also a good time to play with your friends. Go shopping or discuss an impending purchase. You'll get some really good ideas on how to save money. Make sure to consult the folks who are wealthier than you are.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
US Dollar	1.0000	0.3594	0.8076	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
GB Sterling	1.6020	1.0000	2.3309	192.45	2.2223	2762.83	1.1921	9.5250	3.3607
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4721	0.5191	1.2110	0.0027	1144.32	1.3638	4.8834	1.4949
IT Lira	0.0000	1.0241	0.2611	0.0642	1.440.09	0.0029	11.53	3.4407	0.0000
FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000
Portuguese Escudos	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000

Energy									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000

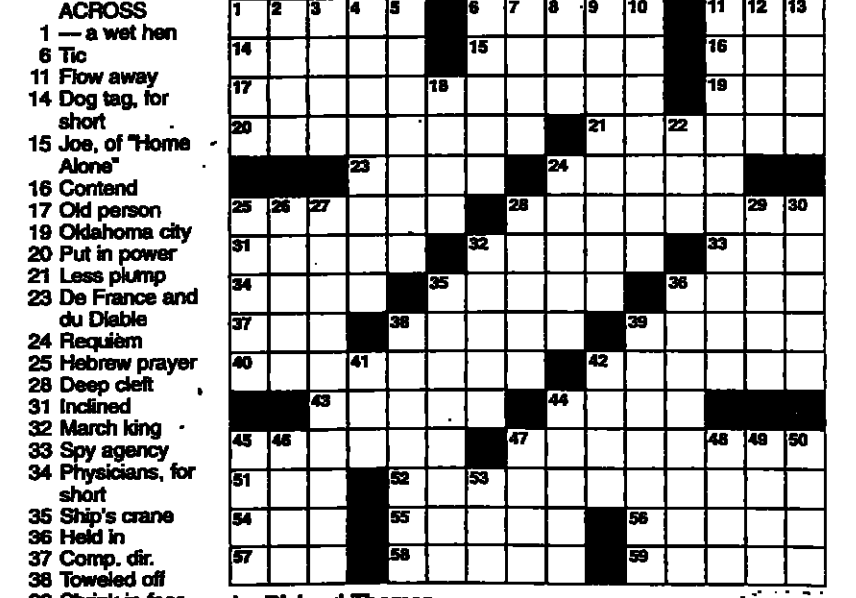
Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000

Main Equity Indices									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000

Energy									
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000

JOD Cross Rates									
	US Dollar	GB Sterling	JP Yen	IT Lira	FR Franc	DM Mark	Swiss Franc	Spanish Ptas	Portuguese Escudos
17/09/97 17:47	1.7680	0.6342	1.4547	120.11	1.3872	1723.54	1.3913	5.3385	200.48
US Dollar	1.0000	0.3594	0.8076	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
GB Sterling	1.6020	1.0000	2.3309	192.45	2.2223	2762.83	1.1921	9.5250	3.3607
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FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
DM Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000

THE Daily Crossword



1 Across	1 Down	2 Across	2 Down	3 Across	3 Down	4 Across	4 Down	5 Across	5 Down	6 Across	6 Down	7 Across	7 Down	8 Across	8 Down	9 Across	9 Down	10 Across	10 Down	11 Across	11 Down	12 Across	12 Down	13 Across	13 Down	14 Across	14 Down	15 Across	15 Down	16 Across	16 Down	17 Across	17 Down	18 Across	18 Down	19 Across	19 Down	20 Across	20 Down	21 Across	21 Down	22 Across	22 Down	23 Across	23 Down	24 Across	24 Down	25 Across	25 Down	26 Across	26 Down	27 Across	27 Down	28 Across	28 Down	29 Across	29 Down	30 Across	30 Down	31 Across	31 Down	32 Across	32 Down	33 Across	33 Down	34 Across	34 Down	35 Across	35 Down	36 Across	36 Down	37 Across	37 Down	38 Across	38 Down	39 Across	39 Down	40 Across	40 Down	41 Across	41 Down	42 Across
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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Exports rise by 9.5% during first half of '97

**** DURING THE** first half of this year, Jordanian exports increased by 9.5 per cent as they totalled JD507.52 million compared to JD463.39 million during the same period of 1996. According to sources at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, exports amounted to JD103.77 million during June of this year, 5.8 per cent higher than the JD98.57 million during June of last year.

Exports to Arab countries during the first six months of 1997 totalled JD265.98 million representing 52.4 per cent of the total. During the same period of 1996, exports to Arab states totalled JD208.25 million or 45 per cent of the total exports. As such, exports to Arab states registered a 27.7 per cent increase.

Imports dropped during the period covered as it fell from JD1,465.42 million registered between January-June 1996 to JD1,422.41 million during the six-month period of 1997. Imports from Arab states were higher as they accounted for 25.9 per cent of the total in 1997 compared to 21.7 per cent in 1996. In other words, the imports from Arab countries rose to JD368.99 million from JD318.46 million.

During the month of June 1997, imports from Arab countries totalled JD56.24 million compared to JD74.24 million during June 1996. The drop represents 24.3 per cent (Al Aswaj).

Aqaba free zone first step towards other zones

**** GOVERNMENT SOURCES** have affirmed that transforming Aqaba into a free zone will be the beginning to set up large free zones on the borders with Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. They said that the Kingdom will benefit from reaching free trade agreements on Arab, regional and international levels but without including "negative lists" such as protection for some products.

The government is showing high keenness to the Arab free trade accord which will be implemented from the beginning of next year. The accord stipulates phasing out customs barriers by 10 per cent over a period of 10 years. Many free trade agreements will be signed with Morocco in addition to exchanging free trade documents with Egypt.

Jordan is seeking to capitalise on the geographical location of Morocco to begin exporting to Latin America which has been neglected as far as Jordanian exports are concerned. Morocco can benefit from the Kingdom's central location to reach all Arab states in the region especially Baghdad, Riyadh, Damascus and Turkey.

Industry and Trade Minister Hani Mulki recently stressed that the era of trade protocol have gone and that the world is now talking about new concepts related to free trade (Al Aswaj).

Euro to be launched in about 12 countries, French minister

PARIS (AFP) — About a dozen of the 15 members of the European Union will qualify for the launch of the single currency, and Italy will be among them, French European Affairs Minister Pierre Moscovici said Wednesday.

"The euro will be launched. The question is: With which currencies?" he said on French radio.

"I think that we are heading towards a broad base which will group at least a dozen currencies and particularly countries such as Italy."

Countries qualifying are to be selected in April-May

1998 and bilateral fixed exchange rates will be set then.

"What is important for us is that a maximum of countries meet the conditions with immediate effect," he said.

He ruled out the possibility that a referendum might be held in France on membership of the euro zone, as demanded by the Communist Party which is allied in a coalition government with the Socialist Party.

"The French people have already voted on the Maastricht Treaty which launched the plan for the euro," he said.

Israel interested in Japan's 'bullet train'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Japanese companies are interested in bringing the "bullet train" to Israel, a Finance Ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday. The companies approached Finance Minister Yuval Neeman with the proposal during his trip to the Far East last month, said spokeswoman Esty Applebaum. She would not give the names of the companies. The bullet train, or Shinkansen, can reach a maximum speed of 300 kilometres (180 miles) per hour. It could reduce the trip between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to less than 30 minutes and between Tel Aviv and Eilat to about 75 minutes, Applebaum said. Japan first launched a bullet train line in 1964 between Tokyo and Osaka. More lines have been opened since.

Crown Prince Hassan calls for financial infrastructure development in speech

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday called on Arab states to increase inter-trade exchanges, embark on more joint economic ventures, and develop their banking and financial markets to deal with the challenges of the next century.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Speaker of the Senate Zeid Rifai to the opening session of a two-day meeting on the development of financial infrastructure in the Arab World, the Crown Prince said the Arab states can achieve gradual integration, create an Arab common market, and pave the way for a common free trade zone for the entire Arab World.

There is stiff competition among countries to attract foreign investment, because such investment promotes economic progress but does not place financial burdens on the host countries, the Crown Prince said.

He said that foreign investment in Arab countries has been below the desired level so far, noting that in 1995, foreign investment in the Arab region was estimated at \$3.2 billion, out of the worldwide investment of \$315 billion.

The existence of a strong and efficient financial sector has enabled several countries to achieve rapid and sustainable economic growth, according to Prince Hassan.

Arab states have exerted efforts in the past few years to improve their financial and banking sectors, but

the next century requires intensive efforts in this respect, he added.

The private sector should contribute to facilitating the flow of capital from wealthy Arab countries to those lacking the funds for development, according to Prince Hassan.

The Crown Prince explained that the ongoing transformations and developments in world banking have presented new challenges for Arab countries, and demanded that new legislation and laws be introduced to allow the banking and financial sectors to better the Arab economy.

Arab countries have not yet succeeded in placing the Arab World on the map of countries that attract investment, countries

which have lost some of the gains they made in the 1980s, according to Prince Hassan.

The Arab World possesses vast potential that would enable Arab states to achieve balanced economic growth, but this objective cannot be fulfilled without the introduction of further economic and financial reforms, he said.

The participants in the meeting, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), will review several working papers covering Arab countries' monetary policies and their impact on their financial infrastructures, the role of financial institutions in privatisation, foreign investment, and stock and financial markets, among other topics.

Gulf Arab oil refineries shrug off Asian downturn

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab oil states have stuck with oil refinery expansion and upgrading projects despite fears that currency and stock market collapses in

Asia will blunt energy demand growth, industry sources said Wednesday.

With economic slowdown forecast in key Asian oil importers such as Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea and the Philippines, export-oriented refineries in the Gulf could find themselves with surplus product from multi-billion-dollar projects coming onstream over the next five years.

"Tendering, procurement and project work is still going on. The whole refinery workload is accelerating, not slowing down," one contractor with a Western engineering firm said.

Refinery projects in Southeast Asia in contrast are being delayed because of poor profit margins and earlier forecasts of near double-digit growth in annual oil product imports are being looked at again after stock and currency market jitters.

"We look at the long-term. Asia will remain an important and healthy market for our products," said one manager at a state-owned refinery in the Gulf.

A major incentive for the work programmes is also the fast rate of population growth in the Gulf which, spurred by heavy state price subsidies on petrol, gas and electricity, has fueled domestic energy demand.

Not content with sitting on more than 60 per cent of the world's oil reserves, producers from Kuwait to Yemen have issued contracts to expand and upgrade existing domestic refineries and to build new plants.

"There is major work underway, particularly in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates... the amount and quality specification from the region will steadily grow in the next five years," said one seasoned Western industry executive in the region.

Refining capacity in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Oman and Qatar is expected to nearly double to four million barrels per day (bpd) in 10 years, according to a study by the Emirates Industrial Bank.

Downstream activity in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, centres on a \$3.5 billion refit of its Ras Tanura and Rabigh refineries which come onstream in 1998 and 2001 respectively.

Neighbouring Abu Dhabi has awarded contracts to build two 140,000 barrels per day (bpd) condensate units at its Ruwais plant to come onstream at the end of the decade while five privately-financed refineries are set for expansion or to come onstream in the UAE over the next three to four years. Expansion and upgrading the Ruwais plant has a price tag of around \$1.8 billion.

Kuwait is planning to lift domestic capacity to boost domestic refining to one million bpd from 900,000 bpd under a current four-year plan.

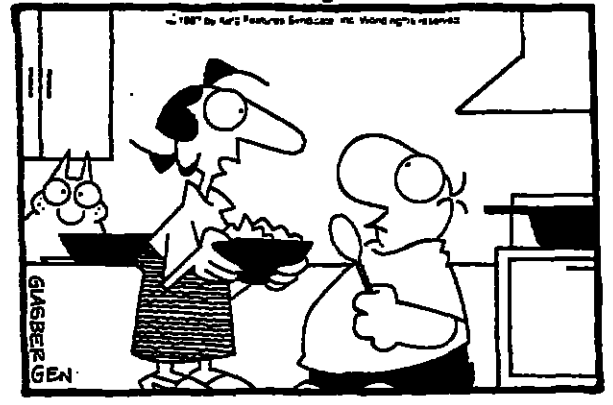
Even in Qatar, Yemen and Oman, often overshadowed by the three major refineries in the region, are launching refinery projects to refine more of their crude for export markets.

Qatar has set itself to expand the Umm Said Refinery to 137,000 bpd at the end of the decade from a current 80,000 bpd at a cost of \$500 million.

Oman's government is studying a proposal to build a 50,000 bpd cracking unit at Salalah to refine heavy residue shipped from its single 80,000 bpd capacity Mina Al Fahal plant by the turn of the decade. This will cost around \$500 million.

Yemen is supporting a \$800 million, private-sector backed plant at Ras Isa to refine 120,000 bpd and has just completed a revamp of its 40-year-old Aden plant.

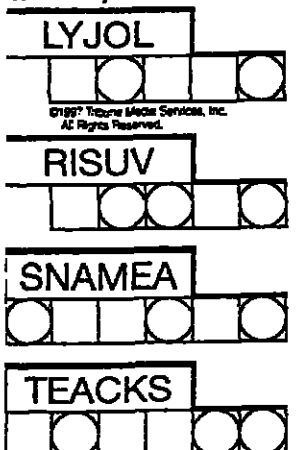
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I'd like to tell you all about my day at work, but it was so awful I could only remember it under hypnosis."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: MAKER EXERT FORBID AMAZON

Answer: A lumberjack tries to avoid this - AN 'AX-IDENT'

WHAT THE REPORTER FOUND AT THE UPSCALE HIGH RISE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUBSTITUTION												
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179												
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 17/09/1997												
PART 12 MONTHS		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW											
M	346.000	241.000	ARAB BANK	15.3	1.20	2	100	33300	336.00	333.00	3.00	-
	2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	29	13400	26666	1.99	1.99	-	-
	2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.0	6.97	6	875	1983	2.25	2.27	.02	+
	5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	34.9	3.88	21	104500	521355	4.77	5.00	.03	+
	1.050	.750	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.21	7	10639	8085	.76	.76	-	-
	4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.7	3.11	12	4650	17949	3.87	3.86	.01	-
	1.110	.720	JOR. DEV. BANK	15.2	4.00	3	8000	6032	1.20	1.20	-	-
	3.800	3.080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	22.0	0.00	1	250	858	3.40	3.43	.03	+
	2.280	.890	BETT. AL-HAL (BETRA)	.6	15.79	5	1700	1637	.98	.93	.03	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 238.79 %CHG: -0.64												
	1.850	1.850	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.8	5.49	81	101500	182902	1.76	1.82	.06	+
T	1.320	1.320	GRID ELECTRICITY	16.8	4.08	51	850	2382	2.69	2.82	.13	+
	1.580	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	1	400	552	1.38	1.38	-	-
	1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	2	370	340	.92	.92	-	-
	7.190	3.900	AD-OUTDOOR	22.8	4.58	1	100	546	5.75	5.46	.29	-
	1.790	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.7	0.00	1	1000	1230	1.25	1.23	.02	-
	3.170	2.890	JOR. INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.7	0.00	10	12100	40517	3.35	3.35	-	-
	1.220	.930	ZAKIA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	5150	5300	1.00	1.01	.01	+
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.25	4	1250	2201	1.74	1.76	-	-
	1.010	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	798	566	.72	.71	.01	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.48 %CHG: +0.47												
	4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.9	2.86	26	11989	46057	3.84	3.85	.01	+
	4.140	3.000	JOR. PROSPERITY MNGS.	10.4	2.67	1	400	1500	3.75	3.75	-	-
	7.050	5.400	ARAB POTASH CO.	24.0	3.33	4	650	3888	6.00	6.00	-	-
	10.900	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.5	8.16	51	7550	81813	10.70	10.89	.19	+
	3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	9	0.00	1	10000	16500	1.65	1.65	-	-
	7.150	5.800	JOR. WESTERN HILLS	11.0	2.94	6	2100	14180	6.80	6.80	-	-
	4.650	3.040	ARAB PHARM. INDUSTRY	12.8	4.29	13	8750	26824	6.66	6.66	-	-
	2.600	2.150	JORDAN DAIRY	8.9	9.22	1	250	663	2.60	2.65	.05	+
	1.800	1.270	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	15.7	6.30	3	1900	2413	1.27	1.27	-	-
	5.950	4.300	DAR ALADNA DEV. INV.	14.3	4.27	4	6600	38923	5.95	5.85	.10	-
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.9	10.00	15	4250	10620	2.50	2.50	-	-
	.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.4	0.00	29	38000	18123	.47	.49	.02	+
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	4	3250	1718	.52	.53	.01	+
	1.200	.510	TWENTY-SEVEN PETRO. CHEM.	47.2	0.00	6	4850	2669	.55	.56	.01	+
	3.000	2.070	NATL. CABLE WIRE. HFAC	36.1	0.00	1	100	225	2.20	2.23	.03	+
	.890	.530	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEM	9	0.00	1	500	310	.62	.62	-	-
	1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	4	150	1002	1.34	1.34	-	-
	1.680	1.080	UNIV. MODER. INDUS.	17.1	.20	8	4600	5831	1.26	1.28	.02	+
	1.510	.910	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.4	10.87	13	5120	4649	.91	.92	.01	+
	1.620	1.300	NATL. CELLULOSE	14.8	4.46	15	8316	12990	1.56	1.57	.01	+
	1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	1	200	168	.83	.84	.01	+
	1.180	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	52.7	0.00	8	2700	3132	1.18	1.16	.02	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.12 %CHG: +0.15												
	4.140	3.000	JOR. PROSPERITY MNGS.	10.4	2.67	1	400	1500	3.75	3.75	-	-
	7.050	5.400	ARAB POTASH CO.	24.0	3.33	4	650	3888	6.00	6.00	-	-
	10.900	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.5	8.16	51	7550	81813	10.70	10.89	.19	+
	3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	9	0.00	1	10000	16500	1.65	1.65	-	-
	7.150	5.800	JOR. WESTERN HILLS	11.0	2.94	6	2100	14180	6.80	6.80	-	-
	4.650	3.040	ARAB PHARM. INDUSTRY	12.8	4.29	13	8750	26824	6.66	6.66	-	-
	2.600	2.150	JORDAN DAIRY	8.9	9.22	1	250	663	2.60	2.65	.05	+
	1.800	1.270	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	15.7	6.30	3	1900	2413	1.27	1.27	-	-
	5.950	4.720	AL-SHARAH DEV. INV.	24.3	4.27	4	150	1002	1.34	1.34	-	-
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.9	10.00	15	4250	10620	2.50	2.50	-	-
	.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.4	0.00	29	38000	18123	.47	.49	.02	+
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	4	3250	1718	.52	.53	.01	+
	1.200	.510	TWENTY-SEVEN PETRO. CHEM.	47.2	0.00	6	4850	2669	.55	.56	.01	+
	3.000	2.070	NATL. CABLE WIRE. HFAC	36.1	0.00	1	100	225	2.20	2.23	.03	+
	.890	.530	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEM	9	0.00	1	500	310	.62	.62	-	-
	1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	4	150	1002	1.34	1.34	-	-
	1.680	1.080	UNIV. MODER. INDUS.	17.1	.20	8	4600	5831	1.26	1.28	.02	+
	1.510	.910	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.4	10.87	13	5120	4649	.91	.92	.01	+
	1.620	1.300	NATL. CELLULOSE	14.8	4.46	15	8316	12990	1.56	1.57	.01	+
	1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	1	200	168	.83	.84	.01	+
	1.180	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	52.7	0.00	8	2700	3132	1.18	1.16	.02	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.12 %CHG: +0.15												
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174.18 %CHG: -0.29												
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 17/09/1997												
	.710	.410	HACHI. EQP. REPAIR. MAINT.	9	0.00	1	100	49	.49	.49	-	-
*	.630	.320	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	4	1036	321	.32	.31	.01	-
	.650	.380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	37	60937	25416	.42	.42	-	-
N	.540	.540	JOR. CIVIL SERV.	9	0.00	1	20657	1909	.68	.68	-	-
	.810	.660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	8	12800	3072	.74	.74	-	-
	.570	.360	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	18	23950	9101	.38	.38	-	-
N	.950	.720	AL-SHARAH INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	800	850	.85	.85	-	-
N	.610	.410	AL-DAMASTAR 75%	73.9	0.00	1	2000	77	1040	.70	.70	-
	1.050	.850	UNITED FOR FIDN. INV.	52.1	0.00	1	10000	10000	1.00	1.00	-	-
	.570	.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	47.2	0.00	6	3250	1333	.41	.41	-	-
	.730	.400	NATL. MULT. ENG. RANCO	16.8	0.00	1	1000	434	.43	.43	-	-
N	.890	.890	HEAVY M/C CONCRETE	11.2	0.00	2	20000	18600	.93	.93	-	-
	.640	.410	NAYAK JES & BOULDS	9	0.00	1	100	45	.47	.45	.02	-
	.620	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	3	1800	555	.75	.76	.01	+
	.580	.580	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	4	6800	638	.73	.73	-	-
	1.190	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	10	9750	8822	1.16	1.16	-	-
	.730	.550	RATZ PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	7	12000	6240	.67	.67	-	-
	.290	.290	IND. SERV.	9	0.00	1	100	30	.30	.30	-	-
	.820	.590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	4	1000	668	.65	.67	.02	+
N	1.000	.690	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 75%	97.4	0.00	6	3350	1508	.70	.70	-	-
	.860	.580	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	6	6150	3754	.61	.62	.01	+
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174.18 %CHG: -0.29												
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French clubs make perfect start in UEFA Cup

Liverpool, Celtic draw, Inter win

PARIS (AFP) — French teams stole the limelight as the UEFA Cup kicked-off on Tuesday with all seven sides engaged in the competition either winning or drawing their first-leg first-round matches.

Auxerre produced one of the best results of the evening when they came away from Deportivo La Coruna in Spain 2-1 winners. Metz scored a 2-0 win away to Belgian side Mouscron. And Nantes forced a 2-2 draw away against Denmark's Aarhus.

French clubs playing at home could also feel satisfied. Bastia snatched a 1-0 win over Portuguese giants Benfica. Lyon hammered visiting Brondy of Denmark 4-1. Bordeaux shared a 0-0 draw with excellent English opponents Aston Villa. And Strasbourg, reduced to ten men when Pascal Nouma was sent off late in the second half, defeated Glasgow Rangers 2-1 in a match in which all the goals came from penalties.

Italian sides had mixed fortunes. Inter Milan snatched a 2-0 home victory over Swiss opponents Neuchatel but Sampdoria left things too late and crashed to visiting Athletic Bilbao 2-1. Lazio produced a super second-half display to come away 4-0 winners from Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal but Udinese were beat 1-0 in Poland by Widzew Lodz.

British clubs, like Aston Villa and Rangers, limited the away-leg damage. Arsenal went down 1-0 in Greece to PAOK Salonika and plucky Leicester City gave Atletico a fright in Madrid before being beaten 2-1.

Meanwhile Celtic and Liverpool shared one of the best matches of the round when they played out a 2-2 draw in Glasgow.

Among other matches, 1860 Munich of Germany were 1-0 winners at Pori in Finland. Dutch giants Ajax struggled for a 1-1 draw away to Maribor Teatonic in Slovenia, and Turkey's Trabzonspor beat visiting German opponents Bochum 2-0.

The biggest score of the night came from Zagreb, where Croatia Zagreb were held 4-4 by Switzerland's Grasshopper Zurich.

And in Salzburg the local Austrian side snatched a thrilling 4-3 win over Anderlecht of Belgium.

Auxerre's win was sealed by two goals in a twelve minute blitz late in the second-half — Bernard Diomedé finding the net in the 72nd minute and Stéphane Guivarc'h making it 2-0 six minutes from the final whistle.

Not that manager Guy Roux was totally happy since Deportivo managed to pull one back through Brazilian Djalminha with three minutes left to play.

"It was a good result — apart from the late goal," he said, adding: "Against a team of Deportivo's quality you can take nothing for granted and we shall have to be very alert and careful in the return."

Two first-half goals from Frederic Meyrieu and Bruno Rodriguez destroyed Belgian confidence and gave depleted Metz a 2-0



Internazionale Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo (L) runs for the ball during first round first leg UEFA Cup match Internazionale Milan vs Neuchatel at Meazza stadium Milan (Reuters photo)

win at Mouscron.

Metz, without international striker Robert Pires who is nursing a broken toe, closed up shop after the interval — Lionel Letizi making several spectacular saves in the visitor's goal and Pascal Pierre clearing a header from home striker Frederic Pierre off the line.

Nantes were less pleased with their 2-2 result in Denmark since they had half-a-dozen chances to win the match outright after taking a 2-1 lead in the 24th minute.

Defensive carelessness in the last quarter-of-an-hour cost the French side dearly since the Danes were able to equalise through Hallum.

Brazil's Olympic team came to Inter Milan's rescue and second-half goals from Ronaldo and Ze Elias earned them their 2-0 win over Neuchatel.

Inter, the losing finalists last season, faced the prospect of an embarrassing home draw after failing to break down the Swiss defence in the first half despite some marvellous efforts from the 20-year-old Ronaldo who loosed off a ferocious 25-yard free-kick which Joel Corninboeuf just managed to punch out, and had a close range effort blocked by the Swiss goalkeeper.

Ronaldo finally broke the deadlock in the 58th minute, scoring his second goal in as many games for his new club after fine work by his Olympic teammate from the Atlanta Games.

Ze Elias ghosted past two defenders on the right-hand side of the area and fired in a potent close-range shot

which Corninboeuf palmed across the face of his goal.

Ronaldo then finished the job, swooping in unmarked at the far post — his reflex shot hitting the underside of the bar and ricocheting into the back of the net.

The first man to congratulate the goalscorer was veteran Inter defender Giuseppe Bergomi, who was celebrating his 100th European cup tie.

Ze Elias added the second in the 71st minute, his rasping shot from just outside the area taking a wicked deflection off defender Lionel Martin and leaving Corninboeuf no chance as it flew into the corner.

Polish champions Widzew Lodz beat Udinese 1-0 in a controversial encounter. Defender Daniel Bogusz drove home the second-half winner as Lodz, who were dumped out of the Champions League qualifiers last month by Parma, took their revenge on Italian football.

However, there was controversy over a disputed penalty claim by the Italians after they had seized the early initiative. Oliver Bierhoff, whose two goals clinched the 1996 European championships for Germany, came close with a header and then burst through but sent his shot high under a defensive challenge.

Bierhoff, who was wearing the captain's armband, then split the Lodz defence with a through-ball. Amoroso ran down the middle unchallenged but tumbled over as he guided the ball past goalkeeper Arkadiusz Onysko.

Instead of earning the penalty he had been

expecting, the Brazilian striker was promptly booked by the referee for "faking" a dive and the Poles were awarded a free-kick.

Lodz piled on the pressure after the re-start and a series of shots rained down on Luigi Turci's goal before Andrzej Kobylanski met Mirosław Szymkowiak's cross with the volley from 18 yards.

Udinese, who have waited a 100 years to play a European cup game, responded with a barrelling drive from new Belgian signing Johan Walem.

However, the breakthrough wasn't long in coming. In the 63rd minute, the ball bounced loose in a packed penalty area and Bogusz drove it home waist-high, on the volley from 18 yards.

Atletico Madrid's Brazilian star Juninho gained some revenge over English Premiership Leicester City when he scored one of the goals in his side's 2-1 win. Juninho, as a Middlesbrough player, lost out to Leicester in last season's League Cup final.

After Leicester had taken a shock 12th minute lead through Ian Marshall, the South American scored the equaliser after a mazy run. Italian star Christian Vieri then converted from the spot to give the Spaniards victory.

A stunning goal from Steve McManaman in the dying seconds earned Liverpool a 2-2 draw against Celtic in a pulsating encounter.

Celtic had battled back from a goal down and appeared to have secured a dramatic win before

McManaman rounded off a sensational run from inside his own half with a curling 20-yard shot inside the post.

Liverpool had threatened to run away with the first leg of the UEFA Cup first round clash after taking a sixth minute lead through 17-year-old goal sensation Michael Owen.

The English visitors dominated the first half and should have put the tie out of Celtic's reach before the Scottish giants hit back in a dramatic fashion with Jackie McNamara scoring a 53rd minute equaliser. Parkhead exploded in wild celebrations 10 minutes later when Simon Donnelly slotted home a penalty.

But McManaman's wonder goal silenced the raucous home supporters, providing a fittingly dramatic end to a night of nerve-jangling excitement. He set off on his 60-yard run before slamming the ball into the net.

Greek first division side Salonika beat Premiership giants Arsenal 1-0 — midfielder Konstantinos Fratzescos, who had earlier forced Arsenal keeper David Seaman into a fingertip save from a freekick, scoring the decisive goal on the hour.

Arsenal, clearly suffering without Dutch inspiration, Dennis Bergkamp who was did not travel as he is frightened of flying, forced only one real chance which was squandered by record scorer.

Ian Wright, one of three Arsenal players booked, in the 50th minute.

A last-minute goal by Ghanaian star Abedi Pele gave Germany's 1860 Munich a useful 1-0 win away to Jazz Pori in Finland.

Pele, who starred for Marseille in their 1993 European Cup final triumph, slipped through a ruck of defenders before rifling home a left-footed shot from the edge of the area.

"It was difficult out there tonight, not one of our best matches. But it's a very good result for us," said Pele.

Coach Werner Lorant said: "We were patient and that paid off for us, but we mustn't be complacent with the second leg to come."

Karlsruhe, semi-finalists in 1994, meanwhile struggled embarrassingly before edging Farnagusta of Cyprus 2-1.

David Regis headed the Germans ahead in the 12th minute following a corner on the left but Pambos Charalambous blasted home a superb freekick on 35 minutes for a shock equaliser.

In the second half, the Germans huffed and puffed as the crowd grew increasingly frustrated until Frenchman Marc Keller whipped in a tantalising cross from the right which Markus Roth despatched with a fine header.



FC Schalke's Michael Goossens (R) scores for Schalke 04 as Hadjuk Split's goalkeeper Toni Gabrij (2L) looks on in vain during their first leg, first round match in the UEFA Cup. FC Schalke is the defending UEFA Cup champions (Reuters photo)



Sozos Yianniaki (L) and goalie Nicos Ranayiotou of Cyprus soccer club Anorthosis Famagusta react after Markus Roth of Karlsruhe scored during their UEFA Cup first round match. Karlsruhe won the match 2-1 (Reuters photo)

Slaney cleared by American Federation

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — The American athletics Federation cleared former dual world champion Mary Decker-Slaney here on Tuesday of charges that she tested positive for drugs at the American Olympic trials last year.

The 38-year-old Slaney, who won gold at both 1500 and 3000m in the 1983 World championships, admitted that her testosterone to epitestosterone ratio in the test performed at the U.S. Olympic trials was higher than the permitted 6 to 1 ratio, but she said that was due to normal hormonal fluctuations.

The three woman committee, which met to discuss her case, agreed with her and concluded that Slaney, who had missed the World Championship Trials after the charges were made and had been subject to a ban imposed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in May, had not "broken the doping regulations last year".

"Mary Slaney has been one of our greatest athletes and I look forward to seeing her run again," Craig Masback, the newly installed head of the American Federation, said.

The commission did not release any details of their discussions on Slaney, who had shown she was still in top form by taking silver in the world indoor 1500 metres in March, and did not reveal if they had reviewed the cases of the other two American athletes implicated in the charges Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Stephen Flency.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maradona will quit if dad desires

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona said that he would give up football if his father asks him to do so. Maradona, dogged by positive drug test reports that jeopardized his twilight career, spoke during television coverage of a match here. The veteran has protested publicly over anti-doping test controls. Until a recent reinstatement his playing status was in jeopardy. Maradona tested positive and was removed from the 1994 Argentine World Cup team.

De La Hoya lines up 2 title fights

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Unbeaten Oscar de la Hoya, who retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title at the weekend by unanimously outpointing Hector Camacho, will make a voluntary defence of his crown in Atlantic City on December 6 against Wilfredo Rivera of Puerto Rico before facing official contender Patric Charpentier of France in Tokyo in March.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI			
YOU'RE THE JUDGE			
Both vulnerable. South deals.			
<p>NORTH ♠ J 10 7 5 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ A 9 4</p> <p>EAST ♠ A 6 4 ♥ A 7 5 4 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ 10 7 8 2</p> <p>SOUTH ♠ A K Q 8 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A J 5</p>			
<p>The bidding: SOUTH 1♠ 2♠ 3♠ 4♠ NORTH 1♥ 2♥ 3♥ 4♥ EAST Pass WEST Pass</p>			
Opening lead: King of ♠			
<p>Follow the bidding and play of this hand. Did anyone err? If so, who and how?</p> <p>The auction was textbook. North had a clear raise to two spades and that was not enough to get South interested in anything more than game. West is forced to go up with the queen and that's that. Interchange queen and ten, and West will force the king. But declarer still has a straight flush for the queen to land the contract.</p> <p>First, the ace and king of diamonds should be cashed, in an attempt to drop the queen. Should that happen, you are playing for overtricks. When her majesty fails to appear, simply exit with a diamond. As the cards lie, West has the queen and is employed.</p> <p>For the sake of argument, though, let's suppose that it is East who wins the queen. East must return a club and declarer still has two finesses available, both in clubs. Declarer plays low from hand and, if the clubs are as in the diagram, West is forced to go up with the queen and that's that. Interchange queen and ten, and West will force the king. But declarer still has a straight flush for the queen to land the contract.</p>			

Sports

Asian Basketball

Jordan loses for 7-8th place

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Jordan's national basketball team lost to the United Arab Emirates 78-68 in the quarter-final of the 1997 Asian Basketball Championship on Tuesday.

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Asian Basketball Championship

Jordan loses to UAE, plays for 7-8th places Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S MEN'S national basketball team Wednesday lost 79-69 to the United Arab Emirates and will now play for 7-8th places at the 19th Asian Basketball Championship currently underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with 15 teams taking part.

Jordan had lost 95-62 to five-time titleholders China and 71-59 to Saudi Arabia in second round matches thus losing their chance of advancing to the semifinals to which the top two teams from each of the two second round groups will qualify.

Group A includes China, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan.

Group B includes Iran, South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei.

Jordan had qualified to the second round of the competition after beating Indonesia 71-49 and Kazakhstan 66-65 to qualify. They lost 68-60 to Chinese Taipei.

Only the top two teams in each of the preliminary four groups moved to the second round.

China and Iran qualified from Group A which also included the Philippines and Bahrain.

South Korea and the United Arab Emirates qualified from Group B which also included India and Bangladesh.

Japan and Saudi Arabia qualified from Group C which included Hong Kong.

Jordan and Chinese Taipei qualified from Group D which also included Indonesia and Kazakhstan.

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Kazakhstan are playing for 9-15th places.

The national team's best performance was a gold medal win at the 1985 Pan-Arab Games in Morocco. On the Asian level, the under-18 team won the bronze medal at the 1995 Asian Junior Championship enabling the team to become the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship.

RACJ organises National Rally Friday

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Al Tayibat Village National Rally kicks off Friday with 15 local auto sports competitors taking part.

The participating cars will cover a total of 119.68 kilometres in three special stages.

The first stage takes drivers south reaching Daba'a area where the first special stage totals a distance of 10.2 kilometres. The second stage is in Salayyah covering a distance of 32.23 kilometres and the final stage is Al Midesiat with a distance of 17.41 kilometres.

The drivers will then return passing through the three stages on their way back.

Until press time Wednesday, only ten cars had passed the technical test and six cars were given the chance until Friday morning to prepare their cars in what concerns safety matters.

Competition will be held

List of competitors:

- 1-Ahmad Dawoud
- 2-Mohammad Dawoud
- 3-Ma'rouf Abu Samrah
- 4-Ibrahim Ata Ali
- 5-Faris Bustami
- 6-Bishara Qaza'ar
- 7-Ibrahim Mohawesh
- 8-Alfred Shamoun
- 9-Mohammad Al Ma'ani
- 10-Assem Aref
- 11-Tala Shawa
- 12-Ahmad Mehayir
- 13-Toni Khilasi
- 14-Zied Talhami
- 15-Mohammad Balbaki

ed between Mohammad Dawoud who leads the Jordanian Drivers Open Championship with 96 points and second placed Ibrahim Ata Ali with 88.5.

Last year's Jordan Open champion Ahmad Dawoud who missed most of the season after suffering a broken leg in the preparations for the Jordan International Rally last May is finally fit to take part in the competition.

- Ford Escort Cosworth 4x4
- Ford Escort Cosworth 4x4
- Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
- Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
- Toyota Celica Turbo
- Peugeot 205 GTI
- Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
- Seat Ibiza SXI
- Lancia Delta Integral 4x4
- Volvo 244
- Ford Fiesta XR2i
- Mazda 323 4x4
- Ford Fiesta X32i
- Ford Fiesta XR2i
- Ford Fiesta XR2i

the knot on Mohammad Dawoud.

After taking part in the Ruman Hill Climb and other speed rallies, Tala Shawa and co-driver Nansi Al Majali are the only women participants in this year's national event.

The last female participant in a national rally was Malia Asfour in 1989.

Mohammad Al Anani who will take part in the event Lancia Delta Integral will be competing in his first desert rally.

Hill dumped by Arrows

ZELTWEG, Austria (AFP) — Defending world champion Damon Hill has been dumped by Arrows — 24 hours before his 37th birthday.

His place next season will be taken by Finland's Mika Salo, who is at present with the Tyrrell team.

Announcing the decision to part with Hill, Arrows boss Tom Walkinshaw thanked the Englishman for his help this season here on Wednesday.

"We looked very carefully at all the options and, after discussing the matter with our technical partners and sponsors realised that Mika would be the most appropriate driver for us."

"We have had a learning year in many ways and I am sure the undoubted talents of both Mika and Pedro will provide the perfect partnership to take us forward."

"I want to thank Damon Hill for all his contributions to the team this year. It has been invaluable to have the world champion driving for us and I want to wish him the best of luck for the future."

Hill is now likely to sign with either Prost or Jordan.

The world champion was left as the man in demand when Jordan lost their legal battle to retain Giancarlo Fisichella and Jean Alesi made the switch to Sauber on Tuesday.

Even if Jordan decide to appeal against the High Court decision which left Fisichella heading for Benetton, the Silverstone-based team's chances appear to be slim.

But Jordan are now likely to turn their attentions to Hill with their main backers, Benson and Hedges, understood to be keen on having the high-profile Englishman on board for 1998.

The presence of Hill would undoubtedly boost the ambitious outfit's profile while his undisputed expertise in technical feedback could be an important factor as they link-up with new engine partners Mugen-Honda next year.

The only sticking point could be the fee with Hill having reportedly agreed a \$5million pounds deal with the team headed by four-time former world champion Alain Prost, but nothing official has been announced yet.

Hill is clearly in a strong position with no other driver of his calibre, experience — or with his winning records — on the market following Alesi's decision to quit Benetton to sign a \$6million pound two-year deal with Sauber.

Gerhard Berger is theoretically still a possible target

Williams counter Senna crash claim

IMOLA (AFP) — Lawyers representing Frank Williams moved to counter claims on Tuesday that a mechanical failure caused Ayrton Senna's fatal crash here at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

The trial into Senna's fatal accident re-opened with the Brazilian's steering column in his Williams car once again in the spotlight.

State prosecutor Maurizio Passarini claims that Senna's modified column failed as the triple world champion took the Tamborello curve, sending his car into a concrete wall at high speed.

Italian ex-Formula One driver Michele Alboreto told Imola magistrate Antonio Costanzo on Tuesday: "On that bend, you don't go off unless there's a mechanical failure."

The former Ferrari driver said that the stresses and strains on the steering column at a circuit like Imola meant there would be some flexing — "of the order of a few millimetres, two or three."

Alboreto, called to testify by Passarini, told reporters afterwards: "Having seen the pictures from Senna's car, I'm even more convinced that it was a technical problem which caused the crash."

"There's videotape which shows the (flexing) movement of the steering wheel was two or three centimetres. If this film is accepted as evidence in court, it will prove that something was wrong with Senna's car."

"No steering wheel moves a few centimetres."

Six men face manslaughter charges after the tragedy here — team owner Williams, technical director Patrick Head and chief designer Adrian Newey, along with three race officials.

Williams lawyers later sought to counter Alboreto's claim, producing a film made in a laboratory using a 1994 car taken from the team's Formula One museum.

The film, which has a driver at the wheel simulating the same movements as those made during a race, according to the defence, indicates that the steering wheel did move several centimetres in normal circumstances.

However, the film did not impress the state prosecutor. "The film shown today has the same value as the defendant who says 'I wasn't in that place on that night,'" said Passarini. "It remains the comment of a defendant."

The three officials — Federico Bendinelli, head of the Sagis company who manages the Imola circuit, clerk of the course Giorgio Poggi and Roland Bruynseraede, then the race delegate of the sport's ruling International Automobile Federation — are all due to appear in court on September 23.

Williams, Head and Newey are due here on October 3.

All six deny the charges, the first ever to be levelled against a Formula One team, and which carry a maximum sentence of five years.

Seles wins, Rubin out in Princess Cup

TOKYO (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Monica Seles brushed aside Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand in straight sets in the \$450,000 Princess Cup here Wednesday.

The top-seeded American, seeking to soften her U.S. Open disappointment, powered her way through to the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-4 victory.

Rain interrupted play on the Ariake Coliseum centre court for several minutes with Seles leading 6-1 and 0-1.

When the match was resumed, the 20-year-old Los Angeles-born Thai player fought back to 4-4 despite strong winds, attacking short balls off the American.

"I think she started playing better, she was missing less, and I lost my concentration a couple of times. But the whole match was really tough to get your timing, because it was very windy," said Seles.

"I felt a little bit uncomfortable with the surroundings, because I hadn't hit the ball for the last two days and today, I only hit for a half an hour in the stadium."

"So I just tried to play very safe today," added Seles.

The American scored a crucial break in the ninth game after repeating deuces four times and then hit a cross-court winner on her third match point to close the match in 65 minutes.

Party Schnyder of Switzerland and Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia slumped after taking the first five games in a row to go down 6-2, 4-6, 1-6 to Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan.

Another qualifier, Shinobu Asagoe, ranked 259 in the world, pulled off her



Chanda Rubin

Venezuela 4-6, 0-6. The ninth seed Nagyova slumped after taking the first five games in a row to go down 6-2, 4-6, 1-6 to Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan.

Another qualifier, Shinobu Asagoe, ranked 259 in the world, pulled off her

biggest win when she stunned American Chanda Rubin, the world number 30, 6-4, 6-3 to the delight of fans.

"To win my first match was my biggest target in this tournament, because all the players here are professional," said Asagoe, 21, who turned professional in February.

"I learned a lot today. I felt comfortable when I was playing with the wind on my back. I was able to hit back on her serve... I think it was the key to my victory," she added.

Austrian novelty test for GP racers

ZELTWEG, Austria (AFP) — Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve, battling for the 1997 Drivers' World Championship, face a circuit new to the series when Formula One returns to Austria this weekend for the first time in a decade.

With four races to go, and Austria the first of double-header preceding the Luxembourg Grand Prix at Germany's Nurburgring track a week away, Schumacher has a 10 point lead in the drivers' race, with his Ferrari team just one point ahead of Villeneuve's Williams Renault.

The super-fast Osterreicherung circuit at Zeltweg has been drastically re-designed to meet the latest safety requirements. The last race in 1987 was started three times, after two spectacular pile-ups on the then very narrow starting straight.

The track now is slower, shorter, tighter and safer, and has also been renamed the A-1 Ring at Spielberg, to reflect the new circuit's sponsor and a slightly nearer township in the rolling countryside of the Styria region.

Because it is the first Grand Prix at the new track, action starts on Thursday with two extra hours of practice, 12.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 15.00, ahead of the normal Friday schedule.

Villeneuve and Williams Renault are among the handful of Grand Prix outfits that have tested privately at the A-1 Ring. Schumacher and Ferrari have not, but the German double champion does not see that as a problem.

"For most drivers," Schumacher said, "the A-1 Ring is a new circuit, but it should not be a problem to adapt to the track within a couple of laps, if the basic set-up of the cars works well."

Villeneuve described the track as "like Monaco without the barriers, very tight and very hard to overtake. Qualifying will be very important."

Damon Hill was more direct.

"I have to admit I didn't like the circuit very much. It didn't seem to have any appealing features. From what I heard, the new circuit is a disappointment compared to what it used to be," the English world champion said.

He described it as a "stop and go circuit"

and from the viewpoint of his Arrows Yamaha team, he added: "Unfortunately for us, I think it will benefit the teams with more horsepower."

That includes Ferrari and McLaren Mercedes, on a high after David Coulthard's impressive win, and Mika Hakkinen's outstanding speed, in Italy two weeks ago. Both have the added advantage of having tested here.

Jordan Peugeot, another team with a powerful engine, also has the basic track data in its computers, although only test driver Fabrizio de Simone drove at Zeltweg, and regular drivers Giancarlo Fisichella and Ralf Schumacher are among those who will have to learn the circuit on Thursday.

"It's a strange circuit on our simulation," said technical chief Gary Anderson, "because it seems the amount of downforce you run does not affect the lap time — you go faster round corners and slower on the straights."

Autumn is coming fast in the region, with morning temperatures down to one degree centigrade, although rising to 18 degrees by midday. When Williams tested here a year ago, there was already snow on nearby mountains.

Schumacher's teammate Eddie Irvine hoped it would stay cold.

"Cold weather will help us a lot, because we have no problem getting our tyres up to temperature, as other teams have," Irvine said.

He has never even visited Austria, but is looking forward to the race "because in theory, our car should be much better than it was in Monza."

Ferrari's Sporting Director Jean Todt acknowledged how important the race would be for the championship battles.

"We will have to be fighting at the front," the Frenchman said.

"On this circuit we should not need to play a defensive game, as we did in Monza," he added. "Instead, we will be attacking."

Omega timekeeper and data handler in Pan-Arab Games '97 in Beirut

OMEGA'S experience in measuring, recording and timekeeping of sports is unmatched by any other leading watch brand. Omega was the first official timekeeper of the 1932 Olympic Games and has continued this tradition throughout the 21st Olympic Games since then, including the latest held in Atlanta, USA, in 1996. Recently, Omega was assigned to handle the data and be the timekeeper of the soccer plus track and field disciplines during the Eighth Pan-Arab Games that took place at the renovated "Camille Chamoun" Sports City in Beirut between July 12th and 27th, '97. Omega will soon be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Omega's ambassador Michael Schumacher, World Champion Formula 1 driver, reflects the dynamism of the Omega brand and its appeal to a new generation of entrepreneurs in search of a sports watch with character and good looks.

DELUXE SEMI-VILLA FOR RENT

Ground floor with garden, garage & telephone. 3 bedrooms (one master), 3 bathrooms, 3 balconies (one terrace). Living, dining sitting all open space — 300 sq.m. Could be used as a regional office. Also a first floor apartment (semi-villa) with the same specifications — 300 sq.m. Location: Excellent in Shmeisani, opposite DAPOTEL. Please contact owner at Tel: 605480 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

Furnished 320m² Flat For Rent

Super Deluxe Flat with 4 bedrooms, office room, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, big open salons, two balconies, car parking, telephone line, furnished with modern and antique furniture, Persian rugs. Located in the 7th Circle area behind MUSIC BOX. Tel.: 821855 from 10-6. We have some Oriental rugs for sale!

FOR RENT

Semi-detached villa, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room with dining area, sitting room, garage and small garden. Location: University Road, Al-Rashed Area. Please call 606510 from 3-7 p.m.

CAR FOR SALE

HONDA ACCORD 1997 Full Options (Manual Transmission) Dark Blue (Duty Unpaid) Tel: 758017 (Mahmoud or Saida)

NOTICE TO ALL CANADIANS

RECRUITMENT TO CANADIAN FOREIGN SERVICE AND THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)

The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Citizenship and Immigration and CIDA will be recruiting officers. Examinations will take place Saturday October 25, 1997. Qualified Canadians may apply at the Embassy before October 6, 1997. (For info: 666 124).

AVIS AUX CANADIENS

RECRUTEMENT POUR LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET DU COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL ET L'AGENCE CANADIENNE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL (ACDI)

Le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et du Commerce International canadien, Citoyenneté et Immigration ainsi que l'ACDI recruteront de nouveaux agents. L'examen aura lieu le samedi 25 octobre 1997. Les Canadiens qualifiés peuvent s'inscrire à l'Ambassade jusqu'au 6 octobre 1997. (Pour info: 666-124)



HOW TO FLOAT WITH NO BOAT: Freshwater angler Petah Woollams, wearing flippers, heads towards the water as she prepares to use a "Fish N Tube" on Lake Pupuke on Tuesday. The inflatable floating fishing aid increases the manoeuvrability of serious fishermen to get off the beach without using a boat (Reuters photo)

Diana bodyguard could explain crash on Friday

PARIS (AFP) — Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the one man who could shed light on exactly how Princess Diana died, is to be questioned by investigators Friday for the first time, informed sources said Wednesday.

While experts caution that Mr. Rees-Jones could have suffered a memory block about the Aug. 31 crash, the judges will be keen to question him about the role of paparazzi photographers in the accident.

The state of intoxication of the driver, Henri Paul, will also be high in their list of questions, while he may also be able to elucidate a theory that the Mercedes S-280 limousine hit another car — apparently a Fiat — just before veering out of control in the Alma Bridge underpass by the Seine.

The 29-year-old former paratrooper will be quizzed by examining magistrates Marie-Christine Devidal and Hervé Stephan at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, where he has regained full consciousness two weeks after the tragedy.

The crash killed Diana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and their driver Henri Paul, who has subsequently been found to have been under the influence of a cocktail of drinks and anti-depressant medicines.

Hospital sources said Tuesday that Mr. Rees-Jones,

a bodyguard for the Fayed family who was the only person in the crash car wearing a seatbelt, was "conscious and can talk."

Mr. Rees-Jones suffered severe facial injuries and has been in intensive care after undergoing 10 hours of surgery to rebuild his lower face days after the crash.

Some reports indicate, however, that he may have suffered partial or total amnesia and never be able to tell police exactly what happened in the moments before the crash.

The RTL radio station reported Wednesday that Mr. Rees-Jones "remembers nothing," although it was not ruled out that his memory would return in coming days. "In such cases the memory can come back progressively, but often the memory of the accident never comes back," said expert Jean Patel.

Another medical source told Agence France Presse that Mr. Rees-Jones' recall of the accident comes and goes.

"Given the violence of the shock and the injuries he could have moments of amnesia but that can disappear sometimes from one day to the other or even in the space of a few hours," he said.

Meanwhile, reliable sources confirmed police were hunting for a Fiat car which might have been hit by the Mercedes shortly before the limousine went out of control.

While stressing that the pos-

sibility of such a collision was "tiny," the sources said laboratory tests on debris found at the scene of the accident had established the make of a car which could have been involved.

France 2 Television Tuesday cited a witness statement suggesting a collision shortly before the crash, and said evidence had been found at the scene indicating the Mercedes shunted another car just before the accident.

In particular, police were investigating fragments of indicator light casings and a rear-view mirror from the Mercedes found some distance before the point of impact in the Alma Bridge tunnel beside the Seine, it said.

These could suggest the front of the Mercedes, reportedly travelling at up to 200 kilometres per hour, had hit the rear of another vehicle going much more slowly, it pointed out.

Attention was also focused on traces of paint found on the right front panel of the Mercedes, and a rear-view mirror ripped off the Mercedes and also found some distance before the scene of the crash.

Both of these would also be consistent with hitting a vehicle from behind, or possibly glancing off its side while overtaking into the fast lane of the dual-carriageway underpass.

Northern Irish unionists inching towards meeting with Sinn Fein

BELFAST (AFP) — The damage done to the Northern Ireland peace process by a republican bomb attack was under repair Wednesday after unionists moderated their earlier boycott of peace talks.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the largest party of the province's Protestant majority, said it would go ahead with a meeting with the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP).

They were to be joined by two smaller unionist parties, the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP).

But all were insisting that they would still not sit down at the same table with Sinn Fein, who are taking part in the main session of the peace talks in the same building, at Stormont outside Belfast.

But observers welcomed signs that the unionists were inching slowly towards the main session.

The meeting with the SDLP was likely to be less significant than the fact that it went ahead at all, a day after a 180-kilogramme bomb blamed on a republican splinter group devastated the centre of the border town of Markethill.

The bomb left a five-metre crater and caused widespread damage but no injuries.

The decision to meet the nationalist SDLP in a peripheral meeting — under the same roof, although not in the same room where the main peace talks are being held — will have sent a symbolic message to the bombers that the peace process continues.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland office called the unionists' gesture a "very positive sign."

British Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam said they had shown "great courage" in going ahead with the meeting.

Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Ray Burke added:

"They have seen the long term opportunities rather than the short term problems that have been created by that bomb."

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein — the IRA's political wing — urged the unionists to put their suspicions about his party behind them and join the full talks.

"They are very welcome. I hope Mr. Trimble has the courage to come into the room and get down to the real job of building a lasting settlement."

Tuesday's attack, which security sources blame on the republican splinter group the Continuity Army Council (CAC), initially prompted the UUP to announce they would be extending their boycott of the Stormont peace negotiations, which started Monday, and demand Sinn Fein's expulsion.

UUP leader David Trimble refused to accept an IRA denial of responsibility and said the circumstances of the attack — its location, method and the van used — were almost identical to an IRA attack on Markethill six years ago, giving "prima facie" evidence of their involvement.

Suspensions that the CAC is run by a number of ex-IRA members and operates with the IRA's blessing have abounded for some time and last week an IRA statement said the organisation had problems with surrendering its weapons prior to a political agreement.

Such events led Mr. Trimble to the conclusion that the IRA, if not violating its ceasefire, was not committed to exclusively peaceful methods.

As a condition of participation in peace talks, such a lack of commitment required its political representative Sinn Fein be expelled, he said.

"There is a gut feeling on the ground that the IRA is



A wasp lands onto the nose of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams as he enters the Stormont peace talks Wednesday. Mr. Adams expressed regret over yesterday's bomb attack in Markethill, adding that the unionists were using this as an excuse not to participate in the talks (Reuters photo)

involved," said Mr. Trimble. "There has to be a response in terms of the talks."

UUP spokesman Gary McMichael added the bomb-making skills used were "quite clearly those which originate within the IRA" and called on IRA to "police" other republican groups in areas such as Markethill which it was known to control.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland office confirmed the bomb attack would dominate any discussions Wednesday between Mr. Mowlam and Sinn Fein.

All five unionist parties have stayed out of the round-table talks at Stormont on the

future of the province held in protest at Sinn Fein's inclusion.

Sinn Fein were allowed to join after their military wing the IRA declared a ceasefire on July 20, but unionists remain suspicious of the IRA's intention to disarm or keep its ceasefire.

At the discussions Wednesday Sinn Fein and UUP delegates were expected to come face to face for the first time in years, only for the UUP to make a formal representation backing its call that Sinn Fein be expelled.

The CAC broke away from the IRA in recent years in protest at the IRA's willingness to consider a ceasefire.

Saddam takes a swim

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein dived into the Tigris River Tuesday to mark the beginning of a swimming tournament in Salahuddin province in northern Iraq, the official INA news agency said. "President Saddam Hussein crossed the river from the east bank to the west, returned to the east bank, and finally returned again to the west bank," INA said. "To encourage participants in this competition, the president congratulated the winners and took their pictures," it said.

Two thoroughbreds named after Diana

LONDON (AFP) — Saudi Arabian Prince Ahmed Salman has reserved the names "England's Rose" and "People's Princess" for two of his racehorses which will debut next year, the Racing Post said Wednesday. The prince's Thoroughbred Corporation reserved the names with Weatherbys naming department, which registers all racehorse names, in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, who died after an August 31 car crash in Paris, the paper said. They will be given to two of his best English-bred juvenile fillies next spring. Ex-jockey and racing manager Willie Carson told paper that the "prince's main priority was that they should be good horses," he said.

Clinton takes daughter out for farewell dinner

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton and the first lady took their daughter Chelsea out for a three-hour going-away dinner at an Indian restaurant two blocks from the White House. The Bombay Club is one of Chelsea's favourite restaurants. She had been there six times before Monday night's outing. It was a farewell dinner for the first daughter before she departs Thursday for Stanford University where she will be a freshman. The Clintons played host to two other couples and their children, who were schoolmates of Chelsea's at Sidwell Friends School in Washington.

Doherty to undergo psychiatric treatment

BEVERLY HILLS (AFP) — Shannon Doherty, star of "Beverly Hills, 90210," has been ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment after breaking a student's car window with a bottle a few weeks ago. Deputy Prosecutor Ellen Aragon said Doherty followed the student out of a restaurant either because she had some words with him or because she mistook him for somebody else.

Architect fined over car-proof garages

GRENOBLE (AFP) — A French architect's firm was fined \$8,300 for designing an underground garage which could not be reached by cars. A group of residents sued Architects Aude, a Grenoble firm, after it proved impossible to turn right at the bottom of a ramp leading to the parking places in their new housing block. The corner at the bottom of the slope was too tight and cars could not get round to reach the 12 places, a court agreed. "The design error is all the greater since the garages were mostly conceived for large cars," said the court.

U.S. fails to find compromise on Oslo mine treaty proposal

OSLO (AP) — The U.S. said Wednesday that it had failed in its attempts to force compromises in a proposed treaty on banning land mines.

Just minutes after the announcement by delegation head Eric Newsum, the rest of the more than 100 nations at the treaty talks in Oslo approved by acclamation a treaty draft calling for an immediate and total ban on anti-personnel mines.

The talks then adjourned for the day. They were scheduled to reconvene Thursday for a formal vote on adopting the draft. Backers hope the treaty will be signed in Ottawa in December, and said they will press to get such key powers as Russia, China and India to join the process by then.

Campaigners against land mines estimate the devices kill or maim 26,000 people a year — about 80 per cent of them civilians.

"With regret, I have to inform the conference that our strongest efforts to find a compromise solution have not been successful. This despite great efforts by the president and senior leadership of my country," Mr. Newsum told the delegates.

The announcement leaves Washington with the dilemma of either signing on to a treaty it had vigorously opposed or of risking international reproach.

Mr. Newsum added: "The

U.S. delegation came to Oslo to do its utmost to negotiate a treaty text that would be sound, both from humanitarian and security standpoints."

Still, the anti-mine advocates were thrilled that the draft had been approved by the rest of the conference participants.

As the pro-treaty delegates filed out of the meeting room, they were greeted with rounds of applause and cheers from anti-mine advocates stationed outside.

"Thank you, Austria. Thank you, Canada," were among the cheers.

Jody Williams, a leader of the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines said: "We won. No, make that the world won."

Despite the euphoria, three of the world's biggest countries are not taking part in the Oslo conference: China, Russia and India.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration will announce its position on the draft treaty by the end of the week, U.S. delegation chief Mr. Newsum said.

The move to ban land mines has proceeded with unusual speed and pressure to conclude a treaty grew after the death of Britain's Princess Diana, who had campaigned for a ban.

The 30-minute session Wednesday was a quick defeat for the U.S., which has

been at odds with other nations throughout the talks.

On Tuesday, Mr. Newsum won a 24-hour delay in the talks while Washington intensively lobbied other governments to accept the U.S.-pushed compromises.

The U.S. had sought several exceptions, including a nine-year delay in implementing the treaty and allowing countries to withdraw from the treaty if they come under attack.

The Oslo negotiations build on talks that started with a few countries in Canada 11 months ago.

The U.S. reluctantly signed on to the talks last month, demanding exceptions that activists say are contrary to the spirit of the talks. They said the idea is to ban the mines for humanitarian reasons, with no exceptions, since most victims are civilians.

The U.S. also wanted to exempt anti-personnel mines that are laid to protect anti-tank mines.

All those proposals have outraged non-governmental groups, who insist the ban must be total and immediate to be worth anything.

An estimated 100 million to 300 million anti-personnel mines are deployed in about 60 countries worldwide, often killing or crippling people decades after a conflict has ended.

Australian MP says all possible done short of shooting Hansen

SYDNEY (AFP) — The Australian government has done everything possible to counter the views of right-wing MP Pauline Hanson short of shooting or jailing her, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Wednesday.

He said the Liberal Party had expelled Ms. Hanson before the 1996 federal election after she made racist remarks and the coalition

government had later passed resolutions condemning her in parliament.

Addressing business leaders and academics, Mr. Downer said a continuing preoccupation with the government's response to Ms. Hanson's anti-immigration agenda led him to believe that people might be expecting an unrealistic lynch-mob approach.

"I'm not sure if the corol-

lary of all this is that she has to be taken out and shot or jailed," said Mr. Downer. "...But we don't stamp people out in Australia."

Asked about continuing Asian perceptions that Ms. Hanson's views reflected public and government opinion, Mr. Downer said the issue had been exaggerated enormously in Australia and picked up by foreign news services.

Saudi talks to U.S. on extraditing dissident

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is discussing with U.S. authorities the extradition of a Saudi dissident linked to a 1996 bombing in the kingdom, Defence Minister Prince Sultan said Wednesday quoted as saying.

"The issue of extraditing [Hani] Al Sayegh to Saudi authorities is under discussion... between the Saudi Interior Ministry and the American Justice Department as well as the intelligence services of both countries," Prince Sultan said.

His comments during a visit to Spain were carried by the Saudi-owned Asharq

Al Awsat newspaper. Prince Sultan said the Saudi investigation continued "wisely and objectively" into the bombing which killed 19 U.S. servicemen in the eastern town of Khobar in June 1996.

Sayegh was deported to the U.S. from Canada in June. Canadian court documents identified him as the driver of a car that gave an explosives-laden fuel truck a go-ahead signal to carry out the bombing.

The official Saudi press agency reported last week that Saudi Arabia, through its Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, had asked the

U.S. for Sayegh's extradition.

The U.S. Justice Department said last week that a lack of evidence would force prosecutors to drop a criminal charge against Sayegh after he disavowed a plea deal that called for him to tell what he knew about the bombing.

FBI Director Louis Freeh said last week the Federal Bureau of Investigation continued to work closely with Saudi Arabia to acquire evidence about the bombing and was receiving documents and videotapes.

But the FBI had not been able to directly question any suspect in Saudi Arabia.

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